



LIVE WORK PLAY GROW!



PATH FOUNDATION

Community Newsletter **Spring 2026**

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I am excited to announce the PATH Foundation's new Community Newsletter - Spring 2026!

Following conversations and feedback from local nonprofits and our community, we decided to share more bright spots through several community newsletters during the year. We hope this change reflects our commitment to the needs and priorities of our community.

PATH's role in strengthening health and vitality is made possible through the work of nonprofits and their dedicated leaders. These organizations deliver essential services, from healthcare access and food assistance to educational activities and mental health resources. Learn how you can connect to these services in the following pages.

In a time of growing division, our hope is to inspire neighbors to unite around a shared purpose: building community through engagement. Try attending a local event, volunteering, participating in a workshop or training, or simply connecting with those around you. Together, we can shape a vibrant, healthy community where everyone feels empowered to live, work, play, and grow.

– **Christy M. Connolly**, PATH Foundation President & CEO



PATH office space in Culpeper





ABOUT PATH

Parkside Apartments in Culpeper

THE PATH FOUNDATION

is a private philanthropic foundation that supports Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Culpeper counties. Since 2014, we have invested over \$100M in our community. Through grants, programs, and partnerships, we help provide resources to organizations that align with one or more of our core focus areas: Access to Health, Childhood Wellness, Mental Health, and Senior Services.

OUR MISSION & VISION

The PATH Foundation strengthens the health and vitality of our community. We want our community to thrive as a place where everyone has a healthy place to live, work, play, and grow.

WHAT'S NEW?

PATH has leased new office space at 201 Waters Place, Suite 107, in Culpeper to strengthen our ability to connect with the community and effectively meet local needs. Stay tuned for updates!



PATH Resource Center

The PATH Resource Center encompasses the PATH Volunteer Hub, PATH Community Link, and the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. The Resource Center also operates community meeting rooms (available free-of-charge to nonprofits) and provides office space for the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Fauquier, and the newly added Humankind Ways to Work program, allowing individuals with challenging credit histories to obtain financing for reliable transportation.



PATH Volunteer Hub

The PATH Volunteer Hub is home to www.letsvolunteer.org, an online platform that connects local nonprofits with community members looking to volunteer their time. Today, more than 8,241 volunteers are registered on the platform. In addition, the Volunteer Hub spearheads a year-round funding initiative called **Let's Volunteer!** and our annual **Season of Giving**.



at the PATH Resource Center

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) at the PATH Resource Center offers personalized tools, training, consulting, and resources to nonprofits in the Foundation footprint. With the goal of strengthening the impact of nonprofits in the community, the PATH Resource Center also offers classes, workshops, access to the Foundation Directory, and many more services.



PATH Community Link

PATH Community Link is a free, confidential service connecting residents of Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison, and Orange counties with community resources. Our staff helps individuals find resources for a variety of needs including housing assistance, transportation, healthcare, food assistance, childcare, and more.

Se habla Español
Call 855.495.5465 (LINK)
Email communitylink@pathforyou.org
Visit pathcommunitylink.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Scan to sign up for
the Mental Health Association
of Fauquier County's
Mental Health First Aid Training!



GET ENGAGED



MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Make It Happen! Grants support innovative ideas that inspire and motivate the community with grants available up to \$25,000. The goal is to support projects that foster community engagement, promote creativity, and enrich the can-do attitude of our region. **Reach out to a member of our program staff to learn more.**

Example: The Town of Washington was awarded \$25,000 to support the development of a trail system connecting the Washington town center with Rush River Commons and the post office. The loop, at over a mile in length, takes a walk through the woods, meadows, and by a pond.

BETTER TOGETHER

Better Together is a year-round funding opportunity that provides \$2,500 to nonprofits operating in PATH's footprint in support of community-facing events that bring people together.

Contact Beth Foddrell at bfoddrell@pathforyou.org for more information.

Example: First Baptist Church in Warrenton hosted a Back-to-School Fun Night where community members engaged in fellowship, food, and fun—including arts and crafts, games, painting, jewelry making, and school supply giveaway. Fauquier and surrounding counties' residents were invited to attend, as well as neighbors in close proximity to the church and families.



LET'S VOLUNTEER!

In 2026, the PATH Volunteer Hub shifted from a month of giving to encouraging year-round volunteer opportunities. We invite volunteers—whether you're a student, retiree, or anything in between—to visit www.letsvolunteer.org to sign up for an opportunity today. Volunteers can browse ways to give back to your community by location, interest, age, date, and more. We encourage you to work alongside local nonprofits to maximize impact and play an active role in helping our nonprofits thrive while bettering the community we all share. **Contact Lynn Lauritzen at llauritzen@pathforyou.org for more information.**

Example: PlayDate, a children's museum in Culpeper, received funding to support the beautification of their shared patio and raised garden with the help of volunteers recruited via the PATH Volunteer Hub.

**WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?**



We invite 501(c)(3) organizations, community groups, and individuals dedicated to making a positive impact in our community to join us. If you have a bold idea and a plan, we want to hear from you. **Scan the QR code or call 540.680.4100 to get connected with a financial sponsor and turn your vision into a reality.**



HERO'S BRIDGE BATTLE BUDDY PROGRAM: EMILIO AND JON

Hero's Bridge is a nonprofit dedicated to serving aging veterans, ensuring they live with dignity and support. Among its most impactful initiatives is the Battle Buddy Program, which pairs senior veterans with younger veterans who understand the unique challenges of military service. This simple concept—one veteran visiting another—creates profound outcomes: companionship, trust, and hope. These visits often include shared stories, assistance with errands, and transportation to medical appointments.

More importantly, they transform isolation into connection. As one veteran told us, "It's caring for our elderly veterans." Launched with support from the PATH Foundation, including a \$67,000 grant to implement Community Health Workers in the program, the Battle Buddy Program has grown into a cornerstone of Hero's Bridge services. Since its launch, the nonprofit has fielded over 400 calls from veterans seeking help, from yard work to transportation.

World War II Navy veteran Emilio Frustaci is 96 years old and lives in Warrenton. Frustaci's buddy, Desert Storm veteran and Amisville resident, Jon Essee, opened up about what it feels like to be part of this innovative program.

"It's been about a year," Jon told us. "It's kind of a slow, gradual process. People aren't assigned; it's just the coolest volunteer opportunity. It's intentional friendship." The duo try to see each other every few weeks. "We're just buds," says Jon. Jon and Emilio met when Jon drove a group of Hero's Bridge vets on their trips together.

"It's just the coolest volunteer opportunity. It's intentional friendship."

- Jon Essee, Battle Buddy Volunteer

"I met Jon when he was driving the van all the time," says Emilio. "We take these excursions, nothing gets people to know each other like that," explains Jon.

The program's success lies in its ability to bridge decades and ranks, fostering a sense of belonging for those who served.

"They [older veterans] don't ask for much and sometimes they have a problem accepting help," Jon shares. "That's their battle, getting older and dealing with stuff—you need a friend."

"Oh yeah, we get along good," says Emilio.

Through community partnerships, the Battle Buddy Program not only combats loneliness but strengthens the social fabric for veterans who might otherwise be forgotten. It is a model of compassion in action—restoring independence, dignity, and hope, one conversation at a time.



**Check out Emilio
and Jon on WUSA9!**

COMMUNITY CORNER

Find opportunities to connect within your community. We invite our readers to explore ways to get involved and give back!

GIVE LOCAL PIEDMONT

Save the date—the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation’s annual day of giving, Give Local Piedmont, will take place on May 12, 2026!

Give Local Piedmont inspires community members to contribute to the nonprofit organizations that are making our region stronger. Every dollar donated is increased by an additional \$100,000 in prize pool funds provided by the PATH Foundation.



Image courtesy of Camden Littleton

CARVER FOOD ENTERPRISE CENTER

CFEC is a shared-use commercial kitchen and food business incubator, operated by the George Washington Carver Agriculture Research Center in Culpeper County. CFEC has rescued over 6,000 pounds of produce through their Feeding 500 program and processed it into over 10,000 servings of healthy food for our community. Their Stone Soup Job Skills Training Program participants and additional

volunteers led these cooking events, making over 500 servings each time.

Scan the QR code to learn more and get involved!



FRESH & DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Fauquier Reaches for Excellence in School Health (FRESH) partnered with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, an acclaimed literacy program that gifts free books to children from birth to age five, to inspire a love of reading. Since launching, FRESH has mailed over 34,000



books to children across Fauquier County through the Imagination Library—over 1,400 every month.

Scan the QR code to receive a book!

ADVISEVA

AdviseVA places recent college graduates in high schools to improve access to high-quality postsecondary programs, including two- and four-year colleges, industry recognized credential programs, apprenticeships, and service opportunities. In 2025, the PATH Foundation supported advisers in all six public high schools, helping first-generation and underrepresented students



navigate the path to higher education and career readiness. Scan to learn more. **Ask your high schooler about their “near-peer” Pathways Adviser!**

Organizations serving our footprint are invited to reach out anytime to share initiatives we can feature in our Community Corner.



PATH FOUNDATION

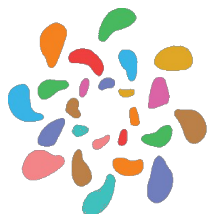
321 Walker Drive, Suite 301
Warrenton, VA 20186



540.680.4100

| pathforyou.org

| [@pathforyou](https://twitter.com/pathforyou)



PATH Community Link

NEED HELP?
LOCAL SUPPORT
IS AVAILABLE.

PATH Community Link is a free, confidential call center to connect community members with the resources they need. **Se habla Español.**



pathforyou.org/community-link

Serving Fauquier,
Rappahannock,
Culpeper, Madison
& Orange counties

We help access
services for:

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Childcare
- Financial aid
- Transportation
- Food assistance
- And more!

Call: **855.495.5465 (LINK)**

Email: communitylink@pathforyou.org

