Positively PATHFINDER

SITE OF PATHFINDER VILLAGE

Mrs. Mullet says the new project will really be called "Pathfinder Village...that each life may find meaning."

Leadership & Legacies
ANNUAL REPORT 2018
In this issue of Positively Pathfinder, we highlight the adaptive nature of our community by recognizing the many examples of leadership at Pathfinder Village. We do this at a time when we say goodbye to our visionary founder, Marian Goddard Mullet (1923-2019).

Here at Pathfinder Village, we have been blessed by able leaders through our four decades — students, residents, staff, board and family members are all called on to lead at times.

One thing I’ve learned is that good leaders listen. They provide opportunities for people to learn and grow. They create situations where people may collaborate. They use adaptive planning strategies to access feedback and factor in external influences that impact an organization. They also allow others to step in, based on their strengths, knowledge, and skills, to help move the group forward.

During my 35 years in the disability field, I’ve known some impactful leaders whose work was visionary and shifted the entire human services field. Among these leaders was Marian Mullet, Pathfinder Village’s Founding President and Chief Executive Officer, who recently passed away. She led our beloved Pathfinder from its earliest days through its 20th anniversary celebration and exemplified the values of hard work and tenacity that her Scots-Irish forebears are known for.

Through the years, Marian, who trained as a registered nurse, grew as a leader and was exceptional in her capacity to work, her outreach to others who could advance Pathfinder’s work, and her heartfelt commitment to people with Down syndrome. She and others of that era built something singular and of lasting value, something greater than themselves. And at every stage, she expressed gratitude to all those who made the dream of Pathfinder a reality.

We are grateful for having had this extraordinary person in our midst, and we follow her example in expressing our continued gratitude to you, those who have been generous in your support and shared in our mission. As we celebrate and build on Marian’s legacy and stewardship, we invite you to walk “hand in hand” with us as we head toward our 40th anniversary in 2020.

With best regards,

Paul C. Landers, MEd
President & Chief Executive Officer
On a brisk April day, members of Pathfinder Village’s Adult Day Services teamed up with volunteers to turn the soil in the garden beds at the Village Hoop Houses. Another growing season has begun for Pathfinder Produce, the Village’s fresh foods market, now in its sixth year of serving the public.

As they worked the soil, you could see that ADS members Chris Scott, Daniel Raffelock, and Brandy Mockoviack, are committed to their work. They’re also excited about the recent growth of the market: Since January, ADS members have delivered “Feel Good” produce boxes to in-need local residents diagnosed with significant health challenges. The program is funded through a $151,000 food voucher grant from the Leatherstocking Collaborative Health Partnership.

The LCHP grant, coupled with grants from The Conservation Fund, The Black Family Foundation, The Richland County Foundation and other donors, is also funding a new Mobile Market truck. A regular route will be set for this unit to deliver and sell more produce to families that live in food desert communities this summer.

“Our objective from Day One with the Mobile Market was to create leadership roles for our workers and create a work culture of ownership and empowerment,” said Paul C. Landers, Pathfinder's President & Chief Executive Officer. “We spend as much time training our workers in roles such as sales and marketing, production, quality assurance and customer satisfaction as we do preparing the produce we deliver to the public.”

Even before the Mobile Market truck is in service, ADS members are having an impact through the “Feel Good” deliveries: The boxes contain recipe cards for several healthy dishes, the fresh ingredients in the recipes, and unique items created by Pathfinder’s day service members—seasonal crafts, drawings, greeting cards and handwritten notes.
"People love the service, and look forward to the art items and fresh foods," said Program Manager Brittany Goodrich. "One person sent a thank you note, saying how much the drawings and notes we send each week mean to her."

"Feel Good" deliveries occur early in the week, and on Thursday mornings, the ADS members set up the traditional Edmeston market at the Village. Brandy, a petite young lady with a ready smile, takes pride in overseeing quality control.

"I'm a leader," she said. "I fill the baskets. I check all the fruits and vegetables." When the market opens at noon, Daniel rings up purchases and uses the credit card terminal. Brandy and Chris bag items and assist with shopping baskets. Everyone loves to visit with the customers.

"Brandy is so dedicated to her job that she goes to bed early on Wednesday nights, telling her family that she needs her rest because she's working at the market in the morning," said Tina Heyduk, Senior Director of Support Services.

"Two individuals have now transitioned from vocational training to paid employment; we hope to add more paid Specialist positions as the market and delivery routes are set," added Ms. Heyduk. "The market encourages leadership; the members are creative and innovative in packaging and marketing. They serve as job coaches and inspire others to work hard."

"The market staff is empowered by the opportunities that Pathfinder Produce provides in customer service," continued Ms. Heyduk. "The ADS members know that they're making a difference and contributing back to the community."

Through the year, market produce is sourced from the Village's regular food service partners; during warmer months Hoop House produce complements the commercially grown items. The market started in 2013 as a collaborative effort among Edmeston organizations and Bassett Healthcare Network to improve community health and fight childhood obesity.

Pathfinder and its community partners continue to lead on local food access and community health issues. The introduction of food vouchers and leveraging "food as medicine" now is gaining traction throughout the U.S. A new study by Tufts University modeled the health and economic effects of food vouchers in Medicare and Medicaid. The research examined two models: In one, aid recipients would receive "prescriptions" from their doctors to underwrite 30% of their fresh produce costs; in the other, a broader array of healthy foods would be underwritten by 30%. The study projects the first model would prevent 1.93 million cardiovascular disease cases (CVD) among current Medicare/Medicaid recipients. The second model would prevent 3.28 million CVD cases and 120,000 diabetes cases. Respectively, these incentives were estimated to save $39.7 billion and $100.2 billion in national healthcare utilization costs. Learn more on the web at now.tufts.edu/news-releases/prescribing-healthy-food-medicaremedicaid-cost-effective-could-improve-health-outcomes.
These funds were established in tribute of the following people and organizations by generous donors so that the outreach, life planning, and education center may help families, friends and others who seek counseling, hands-on education, or research information on Down syndrome.

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"... that each life may find meaning."
Pathfinder Village Scholarship Funds

Pathfinder scholarships help individuals with tuition payments, allowing them to continue on their paths of growth and independence. Our “work horse” fund is based on proceeds from our annual benefit golf tournament. These funds include:

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Scouts, families & Pathfinder residents enjoy the first fire at the new Pavilion Fire Pit, a 2018 Eagle Scout Project by Colin Fadale, a leader of BSA Troop #120, Hamilton.
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Otsego Academy graduate Laura Budai is congratulated by her family after the May 2018 commencement.

Pathfinder Village has been fortunate to have had visionary leaders for over four decades. But it has also been a place where leaders have been developed from among its employees and residents, interns and donors, family members and board members. Leadership is encouraged, in part, through providing people with strong role models and learning opportunities, clear directives and proficiency standards, and by creating a culture where abilities and communications are valued. Leadership comes from providing opportunities for growth at all levels of the organization.

As we conduct our daily business, we grow the Village culture and create a community legacy that is passed on to new generations of residents, students, families, staff, donors, community partners, board members and others. This stewardship is influenced by the resources available to support Pathfinder: the levels of training we provide our workforce, the types of investments we make in our infrastructure, and through helping individuals with disabilities achieve their personal goals at Pathfinder through a well-funded scholarship program.

Growing these three vital endowment areas and supporting the empowering culture at Pathfinder are the goals of a renewed planned giving initiative, the Pathfinder Visionaries. This effort, now part of the Village Foundation’s engagement with donors, provides a framework for individuals to consider their own leadership roles and legacies with this remarkable community that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about the Visionaries, and ways that you can make a lasting impact at Pathfinder Village, please contact President and Chief Executive Officer Paul C. Landers at (607) 965-8377, ext. 102. As always, the Village Foundation staff recommends that you consult with trusted planning professionals to help define your personal goals and consider how your charitable giving may create lasting value and new opportunities for leadership at Pathfinder Village.

"... that each life may find meaning."®
JOIN US IN COOPERSTOWN ON SEPTEMBER 3!

Pathfinder Village-Baseball Hall of Fame Golf Invitational & 10th annual Chobani Tennis Classic

The Pathfinder Village Foundation announces two tremendous tournaments on September 3, 2019 that support our Scholarship Endowment. The Pathfinder Village-Baseball Hall of Fame Golf Invitational continues a rich tradition of golf benefit events at The Leatherstocking Golf Course. The Chobani Tennis Classic will mark its 10th year in 2019! After a fun day of competition, guests are invited to the awards banquet at The Otesaga Resort Hotel. Register today!

For Information visit the web: pathfindervillage.org/get-involved/tournaments

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2018 Chobani Tennis Classic Flight Finalists: Flight A: Kurt Ofer, Jon Hansen, Kyle Reiss and Bob Evans;
Flight B: Aaron Evans, Dave Lemire, Dan Slosek and Peggy Leon (not pictured).
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The NBT Bank Team of Theleman, DeTomaso, Burrell and Wilson get ready for a great day of golf at the first tee at Leatherstocking Golf Course in Cooperstown.
Pathfinder Village will be getting new outdoor benches in the spring thanks to donations by friends and families who value how our community is enhanced by public spaces and amenities that support walking. Workmen pour a new access ramp to the newly remodeled and expanded Program Office & Wiswell Nursing Wing.
In 2020, Pathfinder Village turns 40; the community will celebrate this milestone with fanfare, gatherings, and by recommitting to our stewardship of this remarkable community that has had such an important role in the lives of families and people with Down syndrome and other disabilities.

It is also a time to honor the legacies of those who put Pathfinder on the map. One of these visionaries was Marian G. Mullet, RN, who in the late 1970s led the transition from the Otsego School, a small school in Edmeston, to the bustling community of today. Mrs. Mullet died on March 17, 2019, just shy of her 92nd birthday.

“When I first met Marian in 1982, I was unaware that I would be working on behalf of her beloved Pathfinder Village to this current day,” said William F. Streck of Cooperstown, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and President & CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network. “But such was the gravitational force of her commitment and her energy that I have never left the orbit of Pathfinder. It was an extraordinary privilege to work with Marian. Pathfinder allowed me to share all the wonderful individuals that have been and continue to be the keepers of the Pathfinder dream. Her vision fulfilled is her gift to all of us.”

“In my lifetime there have been a handful of individuals who have inspired, motivated and humbled me,” said Paul C. Landers, Pathfinder's current President & Chief Executive Officer. “Marian is one who happened to do all three. How perfect her vision, how strong her will and what dedication she demonstrated. It has been a challenge to follow in her footsteps at times, but also a tremendous honor to continue her vision and mission of Pathfinder Village.”

Goal-driven and committed to serving others, Mrs. Mullet's path to leadership in the disabilities community was not planned. Her involvement began in 1963, when her family moved to Edmeston so that her husband, Frank, could serve as the Superintendent at the public school. While raising a family and champion-quality Irish Setters, Mrs. Mullet still found time to volunteer as a nurse at the Otsego School, Pathfinder's predecessor. Back then, the school served children and teens, as life expectancy for those with Down syndrome was 25 years of age. Families valued the school's caring staff and programs focused on self-care, communications, and meaningful life activities.

By 1976, Mrs. Mullet was a chief administrator at the Otsego School. But the school faced closure in the wake of sweeping changes in the care of persons with disabilities after the Willowbrook Consent Decree in 1975. Knowing their old buildings could not pass stricter life-safety codes, the school's parents formed a new Board, raised funds, and tapped Mrs. Mullet as the school's director. In a 1988 New York Times op-ed, her brother, Stephen Goddard recalled:

“(Marian)...watched with interest as the Board screened applicants to head the school...all eyes began to turn toward her. Working through her surprise, fear and self-doubt, she realized that scores of friends would soon be homeless without her intervention. Reluctantly she agreed, in her late 40's...and with no previous business experience, to take on a multi-million dollar project.”

Memorial donations can be made to Pathfinder Village Foundation's Thomas Frank Mullet Scholarship, or to The Thomas Frank Mullet Foundation, 36 South Street, Edmeston, NY, 13335.
“She set about to create Pathfinder Village, a $4 million new community... in which 80 individuals of all ages could live, work and play.”

“The Board took a terrible chance with me,” Mrs. Mullet admitted in a 1999 interview with Bates College Magazine. “We formed a whole new organization out of a cornfield.” Following four years of intense program planning, fund raising, and construction, Pathfinder Village opened on July 29, 1980.

As Pathfinder was built, the Mullets faced their own tragedy, their youngest son’s battle with cancer. Thomas Frank Mullet, a Colgate University student, died in 1980. Later, Mrs. Mullet said she found comfort in the birch trees that friends planted at the Village in Tom’s memory.

Pathfinder was envisioned as a welcoming village that would not only provide disability services, but also would offer opportunities for personal growth, skills development, personal relationships, and community inclusion. From seven houses and a school, Mrs. Mullet and the Board followed a 10-phase plan between 1980 and 2000 to grow the campus and expand services. She raised funds during her tenure to create a thriving community with 10 homes, a bakery, a chapel, recreation spaces, and other projects, amounting to $10 million in investments. To recognize her work, in 1991 the new gym was named in her honor, the Marian G. Mullet Sports & Recreation Center.

The crowning achievement of her career at Pathfinder was in October 1996 with the opening of the Kennedy Willis Center, established as the Village’s outreach, education, life planning and research arm. Since then, the Center has handled queries from a global audience and held 50-plus workshops and conferences on topics related to Down syndrome.

Mrs. Mullet stepped down as the Village’s chief executive after a formal recognition dinner at The Otesaga in 2001. In her retirement, she worked with her daughter, Martha Winsor, and granddaughter, Deborah Batt, to write a biography on her uncle, famed artist Richard Andrew. She served on several foundation boards and was awarded honorary doctorates of Law from Bates College (1988) and of Humane Letters from the State University of New York at Oneonta (2002). She was named as a “Woman of Distinction” by the New York State Senate in 2000.

Mrs. Mullet is survived by Frank Mullet, her husband of 68 years; her children and their spouses, Martha and Martin Winsor, Dr. James and Pamela Mullet, and Dr. John and Debra Mullet. She is also survived by her younger siblings, Betty Calabrese and Stephen Goddard, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brothers Harvey, Ralph, and Arthur Goddard, and son, Thomas Frank Mullet.

Mrs. Mullet and Nick Dougherty during the groundbreaking ceremonies for Pathfinder Village on June 10, 1979. The event was held at Edmeston Central School due to rainy weather.

We began in a cornfield...

Mrs. Mullet’s legacy is rooted in the Village’s design and the person-centered services that Pathfinder provides.
These funds support beneficial enrichment, education and wellness services, programs and projects at Pathfinder Village:

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The Splash Path 5K & Fun Walk is an inclusive community event that raises funds to benefit Pathfinder programs that, in turn, benefit our entire community. In its first year, event proceeds helped build the Pathfinder Walking & Fitness Trail; the fifth annual Splash Path proceeds were put toward our new Mobile Market to create a delivery and ordering system for Pathfinder Produce, our weekly fresh fruit & vegetable market.

Our thanks go out to all who participate in this inclusive and colorful run and walk for athletes of all abilities!

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Proudly finishing the 2018 Splash Path, dashing through raindrops.
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Our special weekend to celebrate the important roles of friends and families at Pathfinder Village was memorable, filled with art, activities, a spectacular Resident & Student Talent Show, and the first-ever campus-wide conga line. Our thanks go to the donors who made this wonderful gathering possible.

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Each year, Otsego Academy welcomes students from Colgate University, Hamilton, who spend their Alternative Spring Break immersed in Leadership Week at Pathfinder Village. This spring’s collaboration explored the "kaleidoscope of leadership" and group dynamics.

Otsego Academy is Pathfinder’s post-secondary program for young adults with disabilities who value college-like experiences that emphasize vocational training, independent living, and functional academics. Now in its ninth year, Leadership Week celebrates students’ similarities, facilitates self-discovery and team building, and can be transformative.

"Not only are kaleidoscopes colorful and fun, but the framework helped us see our activities from different viewpoints. We also saw how the things that make us each unique are what make collaborations interesting and successful!" said Maura Iorio, the Academy’s Director of Education. "The Academy students have such passion for art, music, and dancing; they were involved in planning for the week from the beginning. The projects allowed them to take the lead and shine."

This was Mrs. Iorio’s first year coordinating the week with Colgate’s Center for Outreach, Volunteerism and Education (COVE). In all, six University students, from all parts of the globe, took part in this year’s exchange.

Returning student and leader Jazmin Pavon ’19, said, “It doesn't feel like volunteering because it's essentially making friends. One week isn't a ton of time, but the activities help form genuine relationships with people.”

The students plan their MUVES Project; Peter Suits poses with his perfect pizza with Rosario Balo of New York Pizzeria.
In the past, Leadership Week students have worked together to create a celebration for the entire Pathfinder community. This year’s project took on a new slant and gave the students more opportunities to become leaders.

“Our final project was a MUVE-inspired fitness routine,” explained Mrs. Iorio. “The students made up dance steps together and included colorful visuals to cue in those who learn differently. They created a dance that people of all abilities could participate in. It was amazing to see what great leaders they were, especially during their dance classes at the end of the week!”

Other leadership activities included making healthy smoothies, the Master Chef pizza night with Rosario Baio of New York Pizzeria, group games, and a kitchen band with homemade instruments. First-year student Brianna Atkins led the campus tour that welcomed the Colgate students to the campus for the week. She prepared for the tour last semester working as an intern with the Admissions Department.

“I am so proud of myself,” she said. “I felt happy about leading the tour. I liked talking about fashion and clothes with the girls. I made new friends.”

“I liked the MUVE dance. I liked making dance moves and learning other parts,” added fellow first-year student Kate Sullivan. “I’ve been dancing since I was a toddler. I thought teaching the moves was difficult, but I liked doing it with Colgate friends because they are fun.”

More experienced Academy students John Milano and Peter Suits enjoyed the pizza making and creating healthy smoothies with ingredients purchased from Pathfinder Produce. John also led a hands-on science experiment, an icebreaker activity that set the tone for the week.

“I led a science lab using Skittles®, M&Ms®, and SweeTARTS®,” said Mr. Milano. “We put candy on a plate and added water and cool colors came… I really liked the students this year. It was neat to see Jazmin again. I saw her last year.”
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Pathfinder representatives Chris Scott and Stephanie Beams, RN, accept a check from Eve Van de Wal, regional president of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, in support of annual Sports Center Memberships that benefit Pathfinder’s residents and students.

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All efforts were made to check the accuracy of this report. Please email lgrace@pathfindervillage.org if errors were made. Thank you!