

PATHWAY HOME OF SOUTH CENTRAL WI

PATHWAY PRESS

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1, APRIL 2026

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT OF COMMUNITY

OUR 3RD ANNUAL COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On Saturday, February 28, our community gathered at the Baraboo Civic Center for Pathway Home's 3rd Annual Coldest Night of the Year 2K/5K Walk. From 4-7 PM, more than 120 walkers and 30 volunteers came together to stand in solidarity with our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Together, we raised \$2,000 over our goal of \$20,000 to support Pathway Home's mission of helping individuals and families move from housing instability toward stability and independence.

While the funds raised are incredibly meaningful and impactful, this event is about something even greater – bringing our community together to say: you are not alone.

It was especially heartwarming to see people travel from across the region to participate, including Portage, Pardeeville, New Lisbon, Wisconsin Dells, Reedsburg, and communities throughout Sauk County.

Events like Coldest Night of the Year help break stigmas surrounding homelessness while bringing our community together in a powerful and meaningful way. Seeing so many people gather in support was truly heartwarming.

Mark your calendars!

Our 4th Annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2027, and we hope to see an even bigger turnout as our community continues to walk together in compassion and support.



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COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS

Our Coldest Night of the Year walk would not have been possible without the incredible generosity and support of our community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make this evening so meaningful.

A heartfelt thank you to our event sponsors — SSM Health, Wegner CPAs, and Baraboo State Bank — for their generous support and commitment to helping neighbors in need.

We are also thankful to our community partners who helped create such a welcoming evening: Festival Foods and Pizza Ranch for providing warm food, St. Paul's Lutheran Church for serving, Starbucks for donating hot cocoa, The City of Baraboo for hosting us at the Civic Center and salting sidewalks to ensure walker safety, Mike Sarazin Photography for capturing the evening, Rotary Club for donating safety cones, and 99.7 MAX FM and the Baraboo News Republic for coverage and community support.

A special thank you to the Baraboo Bluffs ATV/UTV Club for patrolling the routes and ensuring the safety of our walkers—they were truly the MVPs of the night.

We are also grateful to Alexander Gabriel Music for creating a warm, uplifting atmosphere with live music throughout the evening. And to our amazing volunteers—thank you for making this event possible. And thank you to our speakers of the evening: Father Dave, Karen DeSanto and Rachel Meier.

To every walker, donor, sponsor, and volunteer: thank you for standing together as a community and reminding our neighbors that they are not alone!



MILESTONES: HOW FAR WE'VE COME

Through community support, Pathway Home opened in January 2021 with just one staff member and a big vision: to walk alongside neighbors on their path to stability. By June, we welcomed our first case manager—doubling our team and deepening our impact.

In our first year, we served 70 individuals (57 adults and 13 children). Participants stayed an average of 50 days, with 28% increasing their income and 40% achieving successful exits.

Since then, our growth has been remarkable.

In 2024, we became an independent agency.

By 2025, we've continued to expand our impact—adding five units of permanent supportive housing, growing our team to 5.5 staff members, and, in addition to generous donations and community support, securing major grant funding to strengthen and sustain our work. Our average stay has increased to 68 days, allowing for more personalized support. Today, 33% of participants increase their income and 62% achieve successful exits.

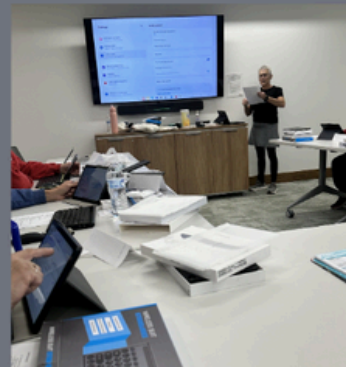
Through Home ARP funding, we helped 57 individuals overcome barriers to housing, while emergency shelter funding in 2025 allowed us to assist an additional 156 individuals. To date, we have served 269 individuals through our shelter and in additional 376 across all Pathway Home services.

What began as a small program has grown into a vital, community-supported organization making a lasting difference in South Central WI—and our commitment to our neighbors remains stronger than ever.

FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

Community—defined as a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals—is something I witness every day at Pathway Home, in Baraboo, and throughout the surrounding communities. When the weather turned bitterly cold, our community stepped up in remarkable ways. Supporters provided funding for motel stays so individuals and families did not have to endure the elements. Others donated meals, blankets, and sleeping bags, and many reached out offering help wherever it was needed. These acts of kindness reflect the true spirit of community—people coming together to care for one another. Community is also found within Pathway Home itself. Our clients often form their own support networks, offering each other encouragement, advice, and compassion. In addition, our Case Managers foster a strong sense of community by connecting individuals to vital resources and walking alongside them as they work to overcome barriers to stable housing. Through a generous grant from the Endres Manufacturing Company, we were able to overcome the technology barrier through improved internet and phone system to meet community needs, a computer literacy class organized and taught by Terri Nee-Holtz for our shelter clients, who also received a tablet, and cell phones and minutes to seek employment, housing and other services. Community is more than a word—it is action, connection, and care. We are grateful to be part of a community that continues to show up, give back, and make a difference. Thank you!

—Wendy



Thank you to the Endres Grant and Terri Nee-Holtz for making this all possible!

2nd Annual Raffle & Rhythm

Mark your calendars! Our 2nd Annual Raffle & Rhythm is happening Sunday, August 9th from 11 AM–5 PM at Ochsner Park in Baraboo. Bring the whole family for a fun-filled day of live music, great food and drinks, yard games, raffle prizes, and more—no cover charge. You won't want to miss it!



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable support and guidance that Pathway has provided for both my son and me. When I first arrived, I was uncertain about what direction my life would take. I had experienced instability, confusion, and a lack of clarity about the future. However, once I became settled in the program, everything began to change for the better. Through Pathway, I was able to align my goals, find focus, and develop a personal roadmap toward healing and progress. The referrals I received were thoughtfully tailored to our unique needs, particularly around securing guardianship for my son, and identifying a safe, nurturing environment where we could thrive. These resources weren't just generic they were intentional and life-enhancing, reflecting the heart and mission of your organization. For the first time in years, I was able to celebrate my son's birthday in a meaningful way. Prior to this, a lack of resources and stability made it nearly impossible. Pathway gave us the opportunity to feel whole again, to celebrate milestones, and to experience joy without the weight of survival pressing on our shoulders. The hygiene items, healthy food access, transportation support, and recreational opportunities all played a significant role in restoring our sense of dignity. I was able to obtain a planner and calendar to help me organize my life, attend appointments, and create healthy routines. These small tools made a big difference in establishing order and consistency in our lives. What stands out most to me is the professionalism and consistency of the case management team. They not only provided encouragement but also practical skills that I continue to use today. The quiet, clean, and safe environment has been a blessing—one that has allowed me and my son to rebuild in peace, with dignity and a sense of belonging.

I am continuing to expand the professional and personal networks that I've begun building through Pathway. The growth I've experienced would not have been possible without the foundation that your organization helped lay. My son and I sincerely thank each and every one of you—from the on-site staff to the Board of Directors and any local and statewide contributions that have not been listed or known for creating a space where families like mine can heal, grow, and thrive. Your work is deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten. I continue to pray for our country our towns our great state Wisconsin and our beautiful nation to prosper!