

Christmas in July...

Christmas – the season has no beginning or end.



On a year-round basis, the celebration of life, selfless giving and untold miracles surround you. You find the beauty and wonder of Christmas reflected in the light from new chances you receive and give, the warmth when hope is renewed, and rejuvenation when dreams become reality.

Dreams are realized at Pathway To Hope

For more than 10-years area residents with mental illness and their families who struggle to understand those illnesses have experienced life-long changes because of Pathway To Hope. Through education, support and advocacy, Pathway To Hope leads them to revitalized lives. Whether individuals face good times or rough times this non-profit organization helps make a positive difference in their lives...often the angels do sing, and sometimes even miracles happen. Those who are mentally ill become survivors and families in turmoil find peace.



Zach's story. . .

Zach came to Pathway To Hope from Pennsylvania in the fall of 2008. His history of undiagnosed mental illness even as he earned his bachelor's degree with high honors and progressed to his first teaching job eventually culminated in a total breakdown – Zach tried to commit suicide. Therapists, who analyzed Zach's condition, said that Asperger's Spectrum Disorders was the root of his problem. That diagnosis, however, did not detract from his determination to teach. He applied to study in the Autism Spectrum Disorders Program at the University of Kansas Edwards Campus, in Overland Park, KS. But he needed a low-stress, yet social environment in which to live. Zach chose Blake House, a transitional living center in Olathe, KS, owned and directed by Pathway To Hope. With the support of KU's Student Success Center and the staff and residents at Pathway's Blake House, Zach recharged his bright mind. He graduated in May 2010 having earned his master's degree holding a 3.8 grade point average. And now, he may go back to the university for his doctorate. His long-term goal? "Working in a university setting, teaching and helping to educate the public about people living with Autism Spectrum Disorders." And a short-term goal – he wants to once again live in the supportive atmosphere of Blake House while he works on his doctorate.



You can help many “Zachs” in the area

Like those that have shared the good news through numerous Christmas seasons, Pathway To Hope looks to you to help share the joy of peoples’ lives and mental health restored. With your help, the dedicated, trained staff and volunteers at Pathway To Hope can reach many more individuals who struggle with mental health issues and their families who cope with learning how to live with children and siblings experiencing various mental health issues.

Now, your dollars during this “Christmas in July” campaign will make individuals, families and our entire community stronger. Your single contribution or monthly financial pledge will be your gift during this “Christmas in July.” The gift will go far to help the mentally ill, and like Zach, they will become productive citizens.

It's easy. Just fill out the information card – enclose your check or provide your credit card number or make your monthly pledge – and send the card back in the enclosed envelope.

You also can make an on-line donation at **www.pathwaytohope.org**

Your donation will light the way for many individuals and their families as they struggle through the maze of mental illness and finally find that special hand at Pathway To Hope – the hand that will keep them from getting lost in the intricate system.

Your gift is like that star shining so brightly that first Christmas night—you are the light.

God bless us every one!

Sharon Lawrenz
Executive Director