

For Donna and Nathaniel, LifePath's Adult Family Care Program Offers Options

Jodie Balaguer, Adult Family Care and Shared Living Program Director

Are you caring for an aging individual or someone with a disability? If so, we are here to offer you options. LifePath's Adult Family Care (AFC) Program provides care for MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth (Medicaid) members who need help with some activities of daily living (ADLs and IADLs), including bathing, eating, walking, toileting, dressing, and transferring. Caregivers receive a tax-free stipend ranging from \$920 - \$1,773 per month, as well as monthly home visits by professionals, and coaching in between visits as needed for the

Donna chose to enroll Nathaniel in LifePath's AFC Program in 2009 to access additional support and resources to complement her medical background and years of caregiving experience. The program's stipends and visits from nurses and social workers can help caregivers and participants thrive and find satisfaction and contentment.

She shared that while doing foster care she asked a young boy what his favorite ice cream flavor was and he responded, "Breyers Mint Chocolate Chip." She replied, "Mine too." No one had ever asked him about his favorite ice cream before. Donna shared, "It's the basic human things in life that mean the world to people."

If you are currently caring for someone in your home or would like to open up your home to someone in need, please contact LifePath's Information & Caregiver Resource Center at (413) 773-5555 or info@lifepathma.org.

to secure their independence and allow them to age with dignity.

We offer special thanks to the local businesses listed that sponsored this 31st annual event.

This year's teams and fundraisers showed such wonderful dedication as they engaged their connections in support of LifePath and those we serve. Your donors have shown unparalleled dedication to you and LifePath. The final team totals, as of June 30, are displayed in descending order with their team and captain's name:

Your support allows LifePath, a non-profit organization, to provide the programs and services needed by members of this community to secure their independence and allow them to age with dignity.



Nathaniel and Donna Marshall, members of LifePath's Adult Family Care Program.

member and caregiver.

Each placement is different. Donna Marshall is a vibrant woman who resides in Athol with her son Nathaniel, 33, and adoptive 23-year-old son Travis. Both Nathaniel and Travis receive services through LifePath. Nathaniel and Donna have been a part of the Adult Family Care

I've taken care of sick people my whole life, the kids nobody wanted . . . those are God's special children. Every child deserves a chance, especially the ones with disabilities.

(AFC) program since 2009. Donna has been a caregiver for over 45 years. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse for 20 years, she has cared for her children, was a caregiver for her mother, and took care of many foster children through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Program. One memory she shared was that of a 16-year-old girl from Vietnam she cared for who loved to cook and made amazing meals.

In 1990, her son Nathaniel was born with Down Syndrome. When the doctor went to break the news to her, they called in the hospital psychiatrist because she did not react the way they thought she should have. She wasn't crying and upset. All she asked was, "Is he healthy?" because she knew some children with Down Syndrome had heart defects. She told them she was going to take him home and care for him just like she did all her other children. Donna stated, "I've taken care of sick people my whole life, the kids nobody wanted . . . those are God's special children. Every child deserves a chance, especially the ones with disabilities."

The Path for Life Walkathon 2023: Numbers Down, Generosity Up

Carol Foote, Outreach and Development Director

With LifePath's fiscal year closing on June 30, we finished tallying totals for The Path For Life Walkathon. We are proud to share the total raised through this event is \$63,661 from team and individual fundraising, sponsorship, general event donations, and donations from the benefit concert hosted by Northfield Mount Hermon.



Carol Foote, Outreach and Development Director

This year's total represents 457 gifts with 128 of those being from donors who gave for the first-time. Thank you to sponsors, donors, and fundraisers who were behind that new support. And thank you to the other 70% of you who returned to support us again this year. Compared to 2022, the number of gifts dipped by 28%, but our overall giving total only suffered a 7.5% decline. That means supporters this year have been extra generous—for which we are so grateful. Your support allows LifePath, a non-profit organization, to provide the programs and services needed by members of this community

\$5,109, Boardwalkers, Judi Fonsh
 \$4,429, Cheryl's Pride, Brittani Brooks
 \$4,240, First Congregational Church of Shelburne, Alan and Deborah Coutinho
 \$3,375, Rethermalytes, Charlie Cornish
 \$2,729, South County Senior Center, Nicole Graves
 \$2,378, Food Brood, Debbie Mumblo
 \$2,294, Warwick Walkers, D. Carol Foote
 \$1,916, Clogston Cloggers, Charity Day
 \$1,114, Nutrition All-Stars, Ann Kaczinski
 \$1,033, Ambling Allies, Janis Merrell
 \$1,020, Greenfield Savings Bank, Linda Ackerman
 \$865, Gill/Montague Senior Center, Mary Jones and Elsie Gilman
 \$843, Virtus, Christina Anderson
 \$795, Over the Hill, Elizabeth Wilson
 \$600, Team Ryan, Sandra Ryan
 \$550, Athol Senior Center, Cathy Savoy
 \$478, Karen Fogliatti, individual fundraiser
 \$330, Athol Woman's Club, Joyce Phinney
 \$210, Team PCA, Amy Dlugosz
 \$135, Team Sunshine, Donna Swain
 \$131, Team Weyers, Sharon Weyers
 \$40, Phillis Stones, Paula Haley

Congratulations on all your efforts and success!

The festive spirit enjoyed by attendees was built by YOU and a number of other merry-makers: all attendees, all sponsors, all community partners, all volunteers, LifePath staff, and all in-kind donors of food, entertainment, and prizes. Thank you!



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