



Summer Klein (left) with AFC member Meia Stebbins (right). Meia has been living with Summer's mother, AFC Caregiver Susie Hopkins, since Summer was a teen. Summer has always told her mom that she would step in as Meia's caregiver when Susie no longer could be.



## The Wave Carrying Us Into the Next Fifty Years

This is an exciting time at LifePath. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, it is a time to reflect on all that we have accomplished. LifePath has grown exponentially since its beginnings as Franklin County Home Care. Resiliency has been key to our success. Through it all, we have remained committed to our mission of serving older adults, individuals living with a disability, and caregivers.

Providing essential services for half a century has had a profound effect on the individuals we serve. I often talk about the ripple effect of LifePath's work. For every person to whom we can provide essential services, we impact that person's life in ways big and small. For every support we can facilitate, other folks in an individual's orbit are realizing the benefits of our work. It could be through the gift of time, space, and grace, or through knowledge, connectedness, or partnership.

Family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, and communities are positively impacted.

We are constantly working to improve and strengthen LifePath. We will remain resilient. We will remain accessible. We will remain a reliable pillar of the community, touching the lives of over ten thousand people a year. We will create more ripples, and the ripples will extend further.

We can only do that with the ongoing support of our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners, all of whom I am honored to serve alongside. As a team, our combined ripples can become a wave, and that wave will carry us into our next fifty years.

Gary Yuhas  
Executive Director, LifePath

## Program Highlights

LifePath's wide selection of programs evolve over time to meet changing needs and to fill gaps in care for older adults and those living with disabilities and their caregivers. With a team of over 150 employees and over 250 volunteers, LifePath provides services across five counties in Western and Central Massachusetts. The need for services increases every year; every program saw an increase in both need and the number of individuals served.

New offerings include our Hospital to Home program, which helps individuals transition home instead of moving to an institution or facility, and our Community Transition Liaison Program, which provides support to those in nursing homes who wish to transition back to the community. Other highlights include:

### Information and Referral

answered nearly 9,000 calls.

### The Community Engagement Center & Respite Scholarships

provided over 3,600 respite hours for caregivers and care recipients.

### Meals on Wheels

provided wellness checks and meals to over 1,100 individuals by serving over 175,000 meals.

### Nurses

completed 705 eligibility screenings.

**SHINE** assisted over 3,800 individuals.

### The Good Life

was circulated to 28,098 readers.

### Protective Services

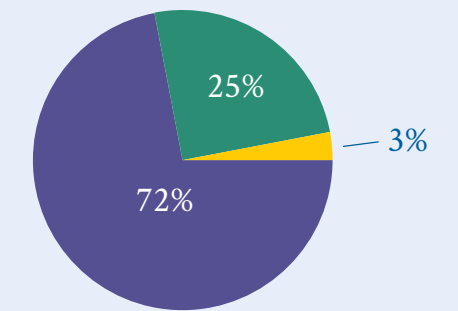
completed 697 investigations.

### Home Care

served over 1,200 consumers, reaching more individuals every year.

## Financial Report

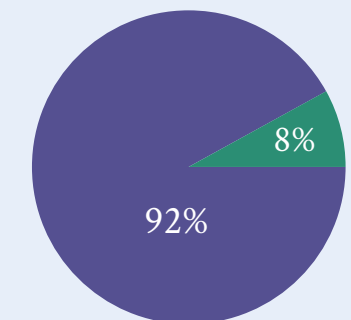
### Revenues



- State: \$18,694,200
- Federal: \$822,840
- Project Income/Local: \$6,381,982
- Fundraising: \$94,111

**\$25,993,133**

### Expenses



- Program: \$23,266,811
- General/Administrative: \$2,014,334
- Fundraising: \$31,450

**\$25,312,595**

**Starting Net Assets: \$5,781,992**  
**Change in Net Assets: \$712,243**  
**Ending Net Assets: \$6,494,235**

# Aminta Lara-Peters

## Support for Someone Who Supported Others



Aminta Lara-Peters, who helped people throughout her life, including as a Peace Corps volunteer, passed away on June 17, 2024, at age 83 at her family home in Northfield, MA. Aminta lived with her husband, her daughter, her daughter's spouse, and her 5-year-old grandson.

Aminta's daughter, Olivia Lara-Cahoon, an RN, is part of the "sandwich generation," taking care of both her parents and her child. She reflects, "LifePath was tremendously helpful—their support in very different ways, including healthcare access and homecare, helped me to not carry the full burden. I'm very grateful for LifePath—I can't even imagine not having their help."

In the Peace Corps, Aminta was deployed to rural Colombia and served her time in the Andean mountain communities, assisting churches and charities with community development and maternal and childhood health care in marginalized communities.

Aminta began her relationship with LifePath in January 2016 with home delivered meals, after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. "It was harder and harder for her to cook. The home delivered meals meant she could continue to eat a hot meal with her husband," says Olivia.

LifePath's Home Care services followed in June 2016, to help Aminta with activities of daily living. Olivia says, "These services helped her tremendously, and she formed a significant bond with her caregiver Tammy. She really enjoyed the company and met so many people—she was a very social person, so [these connections] were so important."

Rides for Health, another LifePath program, helped Aminta beginning in June 2017. Her Rides for Health volunteer, John Wood, would drive her from rural Northfield to her physical therapy and neurology appointments. In a typical trip, John logged 68 miles and spent 3 hours or more with Aminta. According to Olivia, "Having someone like Mr. Wood, who was so compassionate, was an enriching experience." Aminta also got to know John's wife, and enjoyed both of their company.

In October 2019, after a hospitalization,

*"Every time someone from LifePath shows up, things get better!"*

Aminta moved into Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility (CMECF) in Greenfield. John continued to call and visit her there. A Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer from LifePath also began visiting, and based on their conversations, advocated for the extension of Aminta's skilled therapy services under Medicare, recommending that physical therapy was necessary "in order to prevent or slow further deterioration in her clinical condition" and therefore that Medicare should continue to pay for her care. The physical therapy department at CMECF pursued the extension of skilled services and the request was granted. This extension enabled Aminta to receive ongoing physical therapy.

Aminta moved back in with her family in Northfield in December 2023, and resumed home delivered meals. She passed away at home with her family present, hearing them say "I love you."

The service that Aminta provided to others throughout her life was returned to her when she needed it.



[Link to full article](#)

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# Money Management Volunteers Kelly Gagnon and Ken Heider Love Seeing the Numbers Come Together for Their Clients



The Massachusetts Money Management Program (MMMP) has been helping adults over 60, and adults living with a disability, maintain their independence for 32 years. Without the program, many individuals would face food insecurity, financial exploitation, eviction, and premature institutionalization.

“LifePath’s Money Management program promotes and prolongs independent living for individuals over 60 who are at risk because of a challenge in managing their finances. We accomplish this by training volunteers to visit elders’ homes to help with balancing checkbooks, sorting bills,

developing a household budget, monitoring income and expenses, writing checks for the client to sign, and developing debt repayment plans,” explains Ceil Moran, Program Director for LifePath’s Money Management program for the last eight years.

The Money Management program could not exist without its volunteers devoting individual time and effort supporting their neighbors in our communities. Kelly Gagnon, CTFA (Certified Trust and Fiduciary Advisor), and Ken Heider, have both been Money Management volunteers for the last year, helping older adults maintain their independence. Ken also serves as a SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) volunteer.

Kelly has worked in the financial industry for 20+ years, starting her career in banking and advancing from teller to assistant treasurer at a credit union, to her current role as a trust officer. “That’s what I absolutely love doing!” says Kelly, who especially enjoys trust and estate settlement because, she explains, making sure the trust is carried out correctly is a major help to someone who just lost a loved one. Kelly says, “People don’t know where to begin. And I’m kind of that saving grace of, don’t worry about it, you can actually grieve your loved one and I’ve got this, and I’m able to take that emotional piece out of the distribution of funds and you know, have

that conversation with the heirs.”

Ken, now retired, was in a number of professional roles, mainly as a project director for decommissioning nuclear plants, including in Europe and the West Coast. He says, “It was a good combination of a technical challenge with a lot of people and work that had to be done because everybody’s basically working themselves out of a job. So you deal with emotional and administrative elements associated with helping people get on to the next step in life.”

Helping people navigate changes in their lives both professionally, and now through their volunteer work with LifePath, is something Ken and Kelly both share. Ken explains that as the individual he works with gets older, “I help her set up things so she can manage by herself for as long as she possibly can.”



[Link to full article](#)

## Money Management Advisory Board

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## 2024 Funders: Increasing Resources for Local Impact

Private foundations and funders offer another level of impact to LifePath programs and services, and ultimately, those we serve.

We have gratitude for those foundations and funders that believe in what we are doing and have a stake in our outcomes. See the [full list](#) on our website.

## Thank you

We are grateful to all the staff and volunteers who served this year. See the [full list](#) on our website.

We also offer thanks to the sponsors of our agency, special events, and programs. Their generosity is noted with a diamond symbol in the [full gifts list](#) on our website.



*“Your service is GREAT!  
My wife is your client  
and I am her caregiver.  
I am so grateful. I really  
appreciate your help.”*

*“Emily is wonderful.  
She’s both professional  
and understands  
my challenges, even  
suggesting and  
coordinating services  
I didn’t know were  
available.”*

*“The Community  
Engagement Center is a  
great program! I love the  
staff—they are warm,  
caring, welcoming,  
and always responsive  
to your questions and  
concerns. I have complete  
confidence in them.”*

*“This group made  
all the difference in  
the world to me. So  
very thankful for the  
support and kindness  
of everyone.”*

