

Annual Report

2022

Letter from the Executive Director



On behalf of Pathlights, I am delighted to present our Annual Report for 2022 and share with you the impactful work and accomplishments achieved during the past year as we continue our mission to empower individuals navigating the life cycle.

At Pathlights we believe that older adults deserve to live fulfilling and meaningful lives, enriched by the support, connections, and resources within their communities. Our commitment to empowering older adults to thrive guides our programs, services, and initiatives, which are all designed to address their unique needs, foster independence, and enhance quality of life.

In this report, you will find updates on our programs, services, and activities over the past year. You will see how we have been able to impact lives positively and how we have continued to make a difference in the community.

Throughout 2022 we have made significant strides in advancing our mission. Here are some of the highlights.

Engaging Programs – Our team has created and/or implemented four new programs.

- TechWise – A robust program that trains individuals on how to use technology, assists with internet access, provides a social outlet, reduces impacts of social isolation and provides additional supports when needed.
- Path to Financial Stability – A program developed to increase awareness of available benefits and other financial matters.
- HomeMeds – An evidence-based program designed to address medication safety and quality of life issues by screening for and resolving some medication related problems.
- Home Project – Provide guidance on housing needs to ensure older adults can age in place and remain in the community.

Community Partnerships – Collaboration is key to our success. In 2022 we forged strong partnerships with local businesses, healthcare providers, government agencies, and community organizations. These alliances have allowed us to pool resources, share expertise, and maximize the impact of our programs.

Awareness Campaigns – We remain committed to raising awareness about the unique needs of older adults and how Pathlights can assist to enable older adults to maintain their independence and age in place with dignity.

Volunteer Opportunities – Volunteers play an invaluable role in achieving our missions. We actively engage volunteers from the community to participate in many different ways. Our volunteers bring energy, enthusiasm and compassion and help us advance our work.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, committed staff and collaborative community partners.

As we reflect on the past year we are grateful for the support we have received and look forward to continuing our important work in the years to come.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine Grande". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elaine Grande
Executive Director



Our Impact



SERVED **54,263** HOME DELIVERED MEALS



INVESTIGATED **495** ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE



HOSTED **54** SUPPORT GROUPS



DIRECTED **25,349** INTAKE AND REFERRAL CALLS



COMPLETED OVER **1,200** COST SAVING APPLICATIONS



SAVED OUR CLIENTS OVER **\$1.1 MILLION**
THROUGH COST SAVINGS BENEFITS PROGRAMS



HELPED **14,500+** CLIENTS

Supporting Caregivers

“

I am so thankful for Pathlights kindness and compassion. Words cannot describe how much I appreciated all that was done to help me keep John at home, just as we had hoped I would be able to do.

”

SYLVIA

John and Sylvia had exciting plans for retirement after their 30 year marriage – traveling, spending time with family, and cultivating new hobbies. Unfortunately, that all changed swiftly. Around the age of 62, John started to become forgetful and began behaving differently. Later that year, John was formally diagnosed with dementia. He was forced to take early retirement as he was unable to continue with the demands of his work. Sylvia was also pushed into retirement unexpectedly as she took on the role of John's primary caregiver. Eventually, John required 24/7 supervision and companionship. After a year of managing on her own, with almost no other family support, Sylvia connected with Pathlights.

John was resistant to Pathlights' involvement. He denied having any form of dementia and thought that he and Sylvia were doing just fine on their own. However, the story from Sylvia was quite different. She was exhausted, stressed, and grieving the many losses she was experiencing. The goal was to keep John at home but would they be able to do that?

Due to having to take early retirement, John's social security benefits were 30% less than what they expected. The good news: They had paid into a long-term care policy for most of their married life, which Sylvia was hopeful was going to help tremendously with the cost of care. The bad news: The policy that they had paid into only afforded them a maximum of \$70/day of care at home. Plus, they had to pay out of pocket for care for several months before being able to reap the benefits of the policy. Sure, \$70/day was helpful but when you're looking at care that costs between \$30-\$35/hour, it just simply wasn't enough.

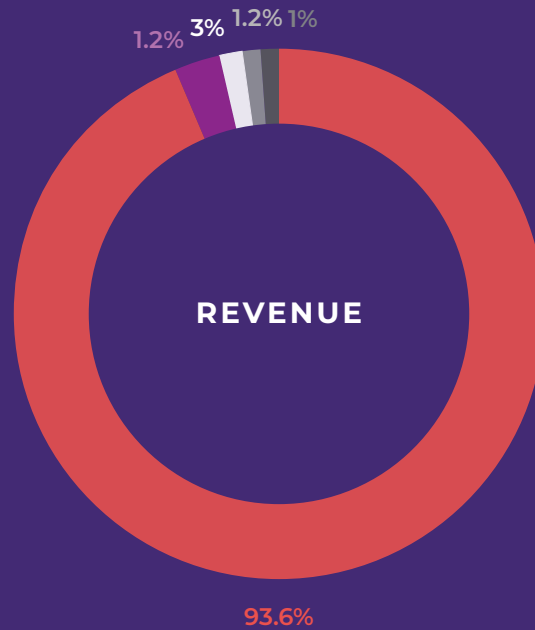
Sylvia began utilizing respite through Pathlights which allowed her to go to the grocery store, tend to her own medical appointments that she had been neglecting for over a year, and she also spent time visiting memory care facilities because she just wasn't sure she could continue to care for John at home. Sylvia regularly attended Pathlights' monthly Caregivers Connecting Support Group where common themes among caregivers are sadness over the loss of what retirement was supposed to look like, anger, guilt, and sometimes overwhelming grief. The group allowed Sylvia to foster relationships with other caregivers and share in the universality of knowing that this is not something she is going through alone.

Sylvia attended Pathlights 9-week Stress Busters for Family Caregivers Session. She wrote that Stress Busters helped change her entire perspective on her caregiving journey because it helped her realize that it was the disease causing her great distress, not John. Plus, the breathing techniques were something she found very helpful.

Home-delivered meals were provided to John to help alleviate some of the caregiver burden. Gap-filling funds allowed Pathlights to purchase incontinence supplies for John as the disease progressed. These supplies cost \$300+ each month. Ultimately, Sylvia was able to keep John at home just as she had hoped before he passed last Fall while under hospice care.



2022 Financials



- **Government grants**
\$4,671,753
- **Contributions**
\$149,482
- **Private foundations**
\$61,123
- **Project Income**
\$58,811
- **Other**
\$48,681



- **Program**
\$4,340,799
- **Management and general**
\$353,294
- **Fundraising**
\$111,490

This information summarizes Pathlights' financial activities for the period between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. A copy of the audited financial statements will be provided upon request.



Thank You To Our Supporters

We truly appreciate the generosity of our corporate, community and faith-based, foundation, government, individual and in-kind partners. You've helped over 14,000 individuals age with independence and dignity in the community.

100%

of board members give back to the organization

111

combined years of board service

6,944

total volunteer hours

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair:

Stephen Sutera J.D.
Huck Bouma P.C.

Vice Chair:

Steve Pappageorge
Executive Director, Corporate, Community and Continuing Education, Moraine Valley Community College

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Elder Care Coordinator, MR, Compassionate Care Coordination, LLC

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Mark Smolenski

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Franciscan Village

Hoyne Savings Bank

Law Offices of Stephen Sutera P.C.

Mars Medical

Mom's Meals

Moraine Court Supportive Living

Moraine Valley Community College

ProMedica Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation

Sterk Family Law Group

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



Corporate Partnership



Donate



Become an Ambassador or Board Member



In-kind donations of incontinence supplies or Homecoming Baskets



Volunteer



Sign up for our Newsletter



Attend an educational event





OUR MISSION

To empower individuals navigating the aging life cycle with a focus on those 60 years of age and older.

OUR VISION

Pathlights aims to be a premier leader in human services, supporting individuals regardless of demographics or circumstances by:

- Maximizing potential across the life cycle
- Providing innovative opportunities and solutions
- Partnering with families and communities

OUR VALUES

- Client and family centered
- Compassion
- Respect
- Professional excellence

CONTACT US

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