

Annual Report 2024

OUR MISSION

To inform, support and empower individuals and families as they navigate aging.



Pathlights

**Enriched by experience.
Empowered in life.**

Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair:

Steven L. Pappageorge

Executive Director, Moraine Valley
Community College

Vice Chair:

Heather Jones

Downtown Park Forest Property
Manager, Village of Park Forest

Secretary:

Meghan Moran

Assistant Department Head
of Customer Services, Oak Lawn Public
Library

Treasurer:

Mark Smolenski

Senior Reverse Mortgage Loan Officer,
US Mortgage Corporation

Sam Balark

Director, External Affairs, AT&T

Alice Collins, M.S.

Community Outreach Worker, Cook
County Health

Jon Dawson

First Vice President, Wintrust
Investments

Jeff Good

Chief Sustainability Officer,
Northwestern Medicine

JoAnn Gruca, RN, PhD.

Associate Professor Emeritus of
Nursing, Saint Xavier University

Bernadette Orr

Retired, Executive Director, Palos
Township

Maureen Rafa, BS, RN, PMHBC

Elder Care Coordinator, MR,
Compassionate Care Coordination,
LLC

Lynn Reasonover

Retired, Senior Vice President/Client
Executive, Northern Trust

Vicky Smith

Executive Director, Southwest
Conference of Mayors

Stephen Sutura

Attorney, Huck Bouma P.C.

We are honored and sincerely grateful to share Pathlights' 2024 Annual Report with you.

At Pathlights, community is at the heart of everything we do. Guided by our core values—respect, compassion, client-centered service, and professional excellence—Pathlights remains committed to creating a future where everyone can age with dignity, connection, and confidence.

Each day, we have the privilege of walking alongside older adults, their caregivers and families, helping them navigate life's challenges. Our commitment to serving the community is more than a mission, it's a promise. A promise to show up, to listen, and to respond with care and integrity.

This year, as we prepared to enter our 50th year, we reflected on our rich history and the many lives impacted by our work. At the same time, we focused on strengthening our foundation for the future, positioning the organization to grow with purpose, respond to evolving needs, and remain a reliable, compassionate partner.

Each year, we strive to deepen our impact, reach more individuals, and play our part in building stronger communities. In 2024, that commitment was more important than ever as the landscape of aging continues to change. From expanding access to vital services to forging new partnerships, we worked with heart and purpose to meet the needs of those we serve.

What we know with certainty is that we cannot do this work alone. The needs are complex and lasting solutions require unity, empathy, and collaboration. We are profoundly grateful for the continued support of our volunteers, donors, staff, community leaders, and partner organizations.

Our deepest thanks to all who made this year's achievements possible. The progress reflected in these pages belong to all of us.

Warmest regards,



Elaine Grande
Executive Director



Steven L. Pappageorge
Board Chair



Our Impact



HELPED **15,500+** CLIENTS



INVESTIGATED **611** ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE



HOSTED **60** SUPPORT GROUPS



DIRECTED **23,981** INTAKE AND REFERRAL CALLS



COMPLETED OVER **1,592** COST SAVING APPLICATIONS



SAVED OUR CLIENTS OVER **\$780,000** THROUGH
COST SAVINGS BENEFITS PROGRAMS



SERVED **76,108** HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Aging with Support



Get Pathlights involved as soon as possible and let them help you. Pathlights is there to fight for you, to help you get care, financial help, medical supplies. Do not hesitate to call them.



BARB

Betty was trying to pay secondary insurance, utility bills and property tax on her Merrionette Park home with just \$1,228 a month in Social Security - and still buy groceries.

When Betty's SNAP benefits were denied, her daughter Barb stepped in. With Pathlights' help, Betty was connected to financial support programs, including LIHEAP, property tax relief, and of course, SNAP.

"They told us what benefits were available and walked us through the application process, telling us exactly what documentation we needed and how to submit everything," Barb says. **"Every year since 2018, Pathlights has helped us get what my mom needed to stay in her home."**

Staying in her home was very important to Betty. She and her husband purchased the house in 1959 and all six children were raised there. While Betty needed financial assistance, she was still physically independent. "She didn't want to be a burden to any of us," Barb says. "She said, 'your lifestyles are too busy for me.' She wanted to stay in her own neighborhood."

As Betty aged, her mobility declined. Pathlights was able to arrange light housekeeping, laundry services, home delivered meals and an Emergency Home Response Service. "My mother never would have been able to afford that on her own," notes Barb, "and it was such a comfort for us, because we don't live nearby."

"My mom began having incontinence issues, and those supplies are not covered by SNAP - and they are expensive," says Barb. While her children helped, Pathlights filled the gaps when possible, supplying Betty with supplies and wipes.

In 2024, after multiple falls and rehabilitation stays, Betty's doctors determined she needed to enter a skilled care facility. Decisions needed to be made and quickly, but Barb and her siblings didn't know where to start. So Barb called Pathlights.

"Just hearing that friendly voice on the phone saying "don't worry, we're going to help you through this" was such a comfort. **Pathlights helped us through decisions we didn't even know we needed to make.**"

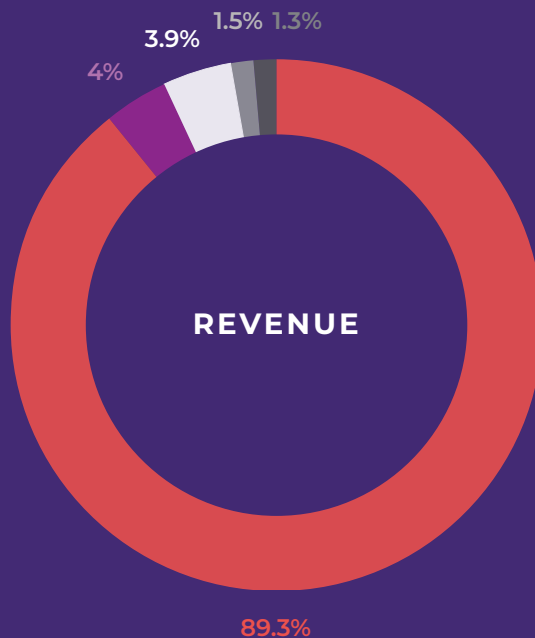
Betty passed away in February of 2025. "Pathlights helped us through everything, right until the very end," says Barb.

Barb is a vocal champion of Pathlights. "My mother was able to stay in her home for sixty-six years because of Pathlights - without them, she never could have. **Pathlights took the most difficult situation and made it so much easier. I honestly don't know where we'd be without them,**" say Barb. "The support and kindness that Pathlights showed throughout was remarkable."

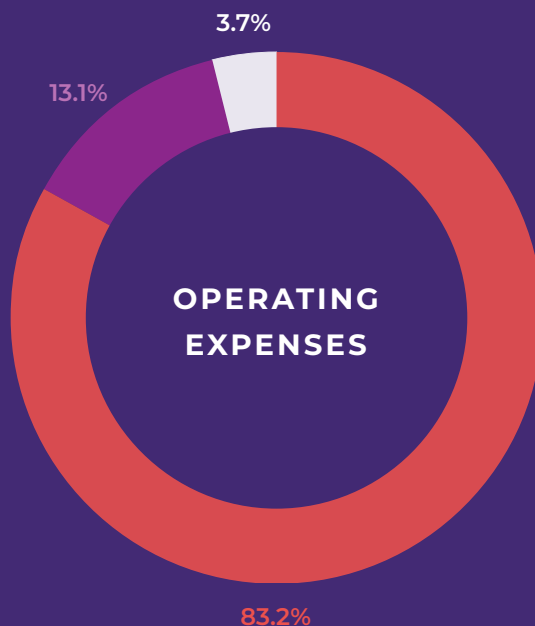
"I tell people, don't wait until you're well into it. Get Pathlights involved as soon as possible and let them help you. Pathlights is there to fight for you, to help you get care, financial help, medical supplies. Do not hesitate to call them."



2024 Financials



- **Government grants**
\$4,833,245
- **Other**
\$216,848
- **Contributions**
\$211,612
- **Private Foundations**
\$79,055
- **Project Income**
\$70,877



- **Program**
\$4,316,613
- **Management and general**
\$679,880
- **Fundraising**
\$192,727

Thank You

We truly appreciate the generosity of our volunteers, supporters and partners. You've helped over 15,500 individuals age with independence and dignity in the community.

104
community events
hosted and attended

8,310
total volunteer hours

\$193,163
value of volunteer
hours

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Always Best Care Senior Services
ComEd
Daily Deals for Moms
Franciscan Village
High Point Residence Tinley Park
Hoyne Savings Bank
Huck Bouma P.C.
Kerlin Walsh Law
Mars Medical
Mom's Meals
Moraine Court Supportive Living
Moraine Valley Community College
Mutual of America
Old National Bank
Partners In Hope
Peace Village
Republic Bank of Chicago
Resource 55 at America's Finest Real Estate
St. Croix Hospice
Superior Ambulance Service
United Health Insure
Walmart
Wintrust Investments

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Action Sertoma Club Inc.
Bethany Lutheran Church
City of Palos Hills
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Hometown Community Chest

Lake Mohawk Golf Club Women's Association
Orland Park Rotary Club
Palos Heights Woman's Club
Palos Township
Rotary Club of Moraine Valley
State Senator Bill Cunningham
St. Alexander Catholic Church
St. Helen Women's Philoptochos
Surbanan Service League
VFW Post 5819

FOUNDATION/FUNDING PARTNERS

AgeOptions
AT&T
BEDS Plus
Comcast
Cook County Department of Public Health
Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Public Health Association
Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital
United Way of Metro Chicago

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



Sign up
for our
Newsletter



Attend an
educational
event



Volunteer



In-kind
donations



Donate



Corporate
Sponsorship



Become an
Ambassador
or Board
Member





OUR MISSION

To inform, support and empower individuals and families as they navigate aging.

OUR VISION

To foster a culture where aging is valued and individuals, families and communities thrive.

OUR VALUES

- Client and Family Centered
- Compassion
- Respect
- Professional Excellence

CONTACT US

7808 W. College Dr., 5th Floor
Palos Heights, IL 60463
708.361.0219

Programs & Services:

Programs@Pathlights.org

Careers:

Jobs@Pathlights.org

Giving & Volunteering:

Donations@Pathlights.org

Operations:

BusinessServices@Pathlights.org

 www.pathlights.org

 @pathlightsIL

 Pathlights