

# Evolution of Success



**2006**

A re-entry program modeled on the program Pathways piloted in 1989 and successfully operated at DuVal High School opens at Crossland High School.



**Crossland Re-Entry**



2004 Graduate

**2002**

First wilderness education field trip to Rolling Ridge in West Virginia.

**2000**

A community-based program opens in Pasadena.



**Anne Arundel**

First annual Academic Expo showcases student achievement.

**1999**

Pathways is a founding member of the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health.

**1998**

Pathways pilots community-based program with MCPS.



**Hyattsville Re-Entry**

Administrative office is expanded.

Hyattsville



**1997**

Annual "Journey to Better Pathways" 5K Fun Run/Walk helps fund outdoor education and the arts.

**1995**

Pathways develops community-based high school program.

Pathways collaborates with GWU to open first professional development school specifically for teachers of EBD students.

Program growth mandates separate administrative office.

Pathways is the first special education school to become a Maryland Safe and Drug-Free School.



Missouri flood team

**Edgewood**

**Hyattsville**

**1990**

Expanding range of needs is met by two new schools. Academic program for ages 9-14 and a school-to-work high school open.

Work Crew: an innovative job training experience begins.



Work Crew

**1992**

New high school prepares students for mainstreaming success.

**Springville**

In response to flooding in Missouri, Pathways sends a team of students and staff. For the first time in its history, the Red Cross accepts volunteers from a special education school.

**1994**

**Duval Re-Entry**

**1989**

First-of-its-kind school for EBD students within a public high school opens. Pathways pilots a re-entry transition program in collaboration with The George Washington University (GWU) and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

Northwood classroom



**1982**

New nonpublic special education high school opens.

**Northwood**





## A Message from Executive Director and CEO Rev. Sharon F. Peters

**I**t takes twenty years to make an overnight success. The underlying truth of this humorous one-liner delivered by comedian Eddie Cantor struck me as a good opener for my message for this year's Annual Report. As you might expect, this annual report shares the laudable accomplishments experienced by The Pathways Schools in school year 2006-2007, but it also shares the highlights of a year when we celebrated our quarter century of success. Since 1982, our schools have enabled young people to overcome obstacles, learn and realize their dreams and been an anchor of support for their families by offering them guidance and encouragement. Hundreds of students have finished high school and become productive members of society.

During our 25th anniversary year, with its chosen theme of *Evolution of Success*, we reflected on why The Pathways Schools has become a recognized progressive leader in the Washington, DC area as a nonpublic provider of educational and therapeutic programs for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities (EBD). Since the doors first opened to three students in 1982, the organization has grown to seven programs serving middle and high school students from several Maryland counties, primarily Montgomery, Prince George's and Anne Arundel, as well as the District of Columbia. Our skill and reputation for working collaboratively with the area's local school systems to promote



*This year, Pathways' community partners and former and current staff joined in nominating Rev. Peters for the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Community Excellence Award in recognition of her guiding leadership "that has both inspired and enabled The Pathways Schools to grow from serving a handful of special needs students to being a catalyst for innovative programming in the field of special education". Her leadership and belief in the promise of young people have enabled hundreds of Maryland's neediest students to live out Pathways credo that they can "learn, be successful, trust themselves and others, change and take charge of their lives."*

specialized education which meets the diverse and challenging learning and mental health needs of students enabled us to forge a new partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools as we opened the doors of our seventh program this year at Crossland High School. (see page 4)

Reflection on our history also brought recognition of how The Pathways Schools have been at the forefront of developing innovative programming for the academic, therapeutic and transition challenges facing special needs students. Many community agencies, businesses and local universities have joined with us in our efforts to develop such programming. This year, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the Washington Post and MCT Federal Credit Union were among those who

shared our mutual pride and excitement in enriching the lives of our students through the inauguration of educational initiatives.

Featured in the center of this year's report are pictures of the grand celebration of our *Evolution of Success* at our first ever benefit gala to raise monies for our mission. Some of the tributes that poured forth for that event are also shared. Reading them, as well as the rest of this report, I hope that you will be among those who will commit to supporting Pathways future contributions to the lives of young people.

I especially urge this as I conclude this message which is my final one as Pathways CEO. As I retire, I express thanks to all of you for past support and invite you to make it ongoing. After all, as Winston Churchill said, success is never final.

### Pathways Mission

**To enable our students to acquire the skills they need to succeed in school, career and life through individualized education and supports.**

Adopted by Crosswood, Inc. June 24, 2002