Pathways Gives Back

In the last few busy months at Pathways Hamilton, our participants have accomplished a lot. There have been multiple tests and assignments, exams, high school events, and teenage fun! In addition to their regular commitments and responsibilities, Pathways students earned over 275 volunteer hours at Pathways Hamilton coordinated volunteer opportunities.

See below to see what we have been up to in the last 3 months:

**Tasty Tuesdays and Thursdays:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Compass Community Health, participants work with a Coach to prepare a meal for their peers.

**Dining Room Clean-up:** Monday through Thursday evenings at Mission Services 2 to 3 participants tidy the dining room and prepare it for the next day’s activities.

**Mark Preece Family House Meals:** Once monthly participants volunteer to prepare a meal for guests at the Mark Preece Family House, a home away from home for families with loved ones who are critical care patients at all hospitals in Hamilton.

**Donate What You Make:** Participants earn volunteer hours by learning to sew mittens and hats and donating them to local shelters.

**Mission Services Food Bank:** A team of students gave up their PA Day to volunteer their time, packaging food at Mission Services Food Bank.

We are extremely proud of all of the hours our participants contribute to the community.

Encourage your Pathways youth to participate and finish earning their volunteer hours required for graduation.

Left to Right—Pathways Participants: Lynn H, Lucas F, Htee H, Nicole M, Balaisa C.
Left to Right—Pathways Coaches: Kamellia, Dena
Volunteers

I wanted to get involved with youth in the community and found Pathways to be a perfect fit that blended academic and social opportunities to connect with youth.

Q—Why did you decide to volunteer at Pathways to Education?

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Q—What is your most memorable Pathways experience? Or, What have you enjoyed the most thus far?

I love getting to know the youth: they’re passionate, inquisitive, funny and creative. Helping them solve problems and celebrating their achievements is so exciting and rewarding for both tutor and student.

Q—What are your hobbies and interests outside the Pathways to Education Program? Or, What are you looking forward to this 2020 New Year?

My hobbies include gardening, crafting, travelling and hiking. In 2020, I look forward to making memories with family and friends, exploring new travel destinations and volunteering with Pathways!

Pathways Soar at Flying Squirrel

After exams, Pathways staff thought that students deserved something fun to celebrate all of their hard work this semester! So, on their PA Day, 24 Pathways participants ventured up the mountain with Pathways staff to the Flying Squirrel trampoline park.

Everyone was jumping for joy on the bus ride, excited about all the cool activities they were going to get to do!

Once they arrived, students enjoyed jumping, attempting the boulder wall and walking on the slack line. They also played basketball and trampoline dodge ball! For many students, this was their first time at Flying Squirrel, but they jumped at the opportunity to try out all of the fun games, and bounced until their hearts were content! This trip encouraged students to explore alternative sports and exercise, by trying a new activity.

To finish off the day, students enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch, and we recognized one of our exceptional students with the Pathways Character Award.

It was a great day, and it is safe say that everyone who went would jump at the opportunity to come again!

Student Story

Congratulations to the Westmount Senior Boys Football team for winning the OFSAA championship! One of our own Pathways students, Kelvin L, was lucky enough to be a part of this amazing experience!

We asked him a few questions about attending OFSAA, sports and school and here’s what he had to say:

Q—How did it feel to be a part of a football team attending OFSAA?

As football is a time-consuming sport, working around being a student, working part-time jobs, and participating in other hobbies comes with good time management skills and planning ahead on what tasks are at hand throughout the week.

Wow! Sounds like an amazing experience and thanks for the great insight, Kelvin! We wish you all the best next year in both school and your extracurricular activities!

Q—How do you manage your time with being on a football team and being a good student?
Women in Trades Come to Pathways Programming

Pursuing work in the trades is a diverse and meaningful career path that many people take. There are so many opportunities for young people to train in a field that they are interested in, and follow a career path that they are passionate about. However, skilled trades have traditionally been male dominated. Pathways sees that it is important to create an opportunity for young women to be exposed to the options available to them within this field. Therefore, in January, Pathways brought in two experienced women in the carpentry trade to talk to students about these opportunities, and teach them some skills of the trade.

Four female Pathways Students participated in this workshop, and worked with the female carpenters to build a bookshelf for the Pathways space. During this event, the students learned about different career pathways, what they need to take in high school, and scholarships and programs that are available for them. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to make something for the Pathways space, and many of them commented afterwards that they were now considering a career in the trades.

Left to Right—Pathways Participants: Cindy H, Lizzie E.K.
Each semester, Pathways Hamilton hosts a drawing contest and Pathways staff vote on the submitted works to select an artist of the semester. Congratulations to Hani H. for being chosen as this semester’s selected artist and recipient of a $50 Michael’s gift card. If you are a Pathways Hamilton participant and interested in submitting a work of art for the second semester’s contest please speak with Coach Lloyd or your Coach.