

Pathways to Promise Announces New Strategic Vision

October 5, 2023



Photo by [Pedro Miranda](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Pathways to Promise is thrilled to announce the launch of our groundbreaking strategic vision, a transformative roadmap that will empower us to reach new heights and make an even greater impact on the well-being of individuals and communities. The vision is summarized in two parts below - an update of who we are (vision, mission, core values) and sharing of the vision's context and details.

Who We Are

Pathways to Promise, founded in 1988, is a multifaith and multicultural mental health support organization that addresses the need for comprehensive mental health support for any person with a mental health condition and those who surround them. Our vision is realized in communities across the nation through a continuum of program resources and a delivery model.

Vision

A safety net of stigma-free, diverse, Connected Communities of Care.

Mission

Equipping diverse communities to create safe, equitable, healing connections for mental wellness.

Core Values

- Compassion – people-driven mental wellness support
- Companionship – side-by-side human connections
- Courage – championing justice for everyone
- Collaboration – connecting faith and other partners
- Creativity – program and model delivery innovations

Tagline

Connecting Communities of Care

Strategic Vision Context & Details

Mental health challenges are more prevalent than most people realize, with one in five American adults grappling with diagnosable mental health conditions annually. Shockingly, nearly 50 percent of Americans will experience these challenges in their lifetime. Extending far beyond individuals, the impact of this struggle affects those who support them and their entire communities.

These struggles transcend boundaries and can affect anyone, anytime, and anywhere as a matter of life and death. This drives home the reality that in the US we are undeniably in the midst of a mental health crisis impacting over 65 million individuals, with the majority not receiving the care they need.

Furthermore, there's a stark shortage of mental health professionals to meet the rising demand. With the unwarranted stigma associated with mental illness, access to care and care engagement for many people continues to be a social justice issue that is costing lives.

Pathways to Promise will help bridge the gap by bringing comprehensive mental health support for the millions with mental health challenges and those who surround them through a continuum of program resources and a delivery model to bring it to their community. Our mission is to "equip diverse communities to establish safe, equitable, and healing connections for mental wellness."

We are developing a comprehensive **Continuum of Program Supports (COPE) Toolkit** of program resources and a **Connecting Communities of Care (3C) SafetyNet** as a delivery model. For implementation, we will leverage the support and dedication of faith and other community partners.

The **COPE Toolkit** will consist of five mental wellness support programs for prevention, treatment, and recovery. These programs are informed by research, trauma theory, and practice. They are designed to be adaptable, relational, and engaging to equip individuals with mental health challenges and those who surround them with perception adjustments, skills, and knowledge.

1. Awareness Care 101
2. Resiliency Care 201
3. Companionship Care 301
4. Referral Care 401
5. Recovery Care 501

The 3C SafetyNet will serve as a delivery model for the COPE Toolkit and is designed to be structured, supportive, sustainable, and scalable. It utilizes faith and community volunteers to provide equitable, cultural, community-based, low-cost support for mental wellness access, engagement, and connections.

Significant program development will be completed by the end of 2023. A portion of our pilot will be completed by the second quarter of 2024. We are embracing the future by charting a transformative course to elevate Pathways to Promise to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities.

For more details on the Strategic Vision, click [here](#).

**Join us today in helping people
move toward a path to mental wellness.**

[Give Now](#)

Board Meeting in Chicago



Pathways to Promise Board of Directors worked with our new Executive Director, Dr. George Williams, in discussing, revising, and approving the Strategic Plan he drafted. Meeting in Chicago, August 27-29, were (left to right) Doug Beach, Executive Director George Williams, Bernard Franklin, Jinah Yoon, Mark Stephenson, Director of Operations Annette Miller, Robert Skrocki, and Ed Shoener.

Curtis Ramsey-Lucas and Ben Mann attended virtually. Sarah Lund was unable to attend.



Thank You to Deacon Ed Shoener

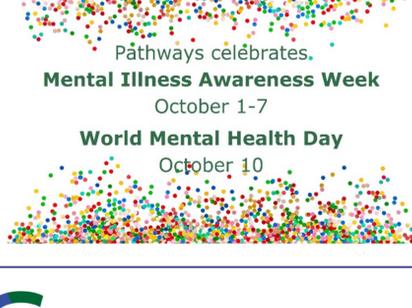
by Rev. Mark Stephenson
Board President

Deacon Ed Shoener and I met at a Companionship workshop we both attended in 2018 when Ed joined the board of Pathways to Promise. Before the workshop began, he told me about his daughter Kathleen, "Katie," who died by suicide in 2016. I learned later that her obituary went viral because its candor spoke to the needs and concerns of people who live with mental illnesses.

While serving on the Pathways board, Ed was a treasurer for some of his term and worked with others to develop a distinctly Roman Catholic curriculum for the Companionship workshop. In addition, through the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (ACMHM), he was able to secure scholarships for people seeking to facilitate Companionship workshops for Roman Catholic audiences. Jim McDowell, one of the people who benefited from this work wrote this appreciation:

"Thank you, Deacon Ed, for all you do...Using an ACMHM scholarship allowed me to become a Community Trainer [Companionship Instructor] and conduct workshops in my family of parishes in Southeast Michigan. Your vision and untiring efforts to educate the world and make mental health recognized as a medical condition will continue to reduce stigma surrounding mental illness."

We agree with Jim, and on behalf of the Pathways' board and staff, we thank you, Deacon Ed, for all you do! To learn more about Deacon Ed, [read a brief bio](#) on the ACMHM website.



Companionship is a ministry of presence, a relationship responding to isolation and suffering and supportive of healing and recovery. Companionship welcomes the stranger, building a circle of care with individuals who are facing emotional and mental health challenges. Companionship is rooted in our natural capacities as human beings to be sensitive, compassionate and concerned.

Our next virtual certification training event for the Companionship program is November 8, 10-11. A virtual Companionship workshop is November 8 from 6-9 pm Central Time.

**For more information and to register for either training,
click here**

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