

Executive Director's Reflection and Thank You

As I reflect on our Open House and Ribbon Cutting on May 29, 2026, my heart is full of gratitude. Welcoming more than 350 community members into our new facility was a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared purpose. Seeing so many supporters, partners, volunteers, donors, and friends walk through our doors was both humbling and inspiring.

This day and this building would not have been possible without the generosity, hard work, and belief of so many people. To everyone who donated, volunteered, advocated for our mission, attended the celebration, or supported this project in any way, thank you. Your investment in PCC is an investment in the families and individuals we serve every day.

Our new facility represents far more than a building. It is a place of hope, opportunity, and connection where individuals and families can access the resources they need to overcome challenges and build brighter futures. Every donation provides food for those experiencing food insecurity, enriching programs for youth and families, access to education, healthcare, mental health services, and connections to community partners. Together, we are helping people move beyond crisis toward stability while breaking generational cycles of poverty.

Although our expansion is still in its early stages, we are already growing. We have expanded our Pathways program to serve students in kindergarten through second grade and are beginning our first full school year in our new home. In the coming year, additional partner agencies will provide even more services on-site, making it easier for families to access the support they need in one welcoming location.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are also working to close the remaining gap in our Capital Campaign to fully pay for our new facility. If you are inspired to invest in the future of PCC through a one-time gift or a multi-year pledge, I would love the opportunity to speak with you. Your support will ensure this building continues to serve our community for generations to come.

Your continued generosity makes this work possible. Whether you give financially, volunteer your time, or advocate for PCC in the community, you are changing lives. Please continue to follow our journey through our website at pccse.org and on Facebook and Instagram for updates on our programs, events, and the lives being impacted by your support.

If you were unable to attend our Open House and would like to tour our new facility, I would be delighted to show you around. Please email me at njennings@pccse.org to schedule a visit or to learn more about supporting our Capital Campaign.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping PCC continue to serve our community with compassion, hope, and purpose.

Nicole Jennings, Executive Director



Summer Fun in Pathways

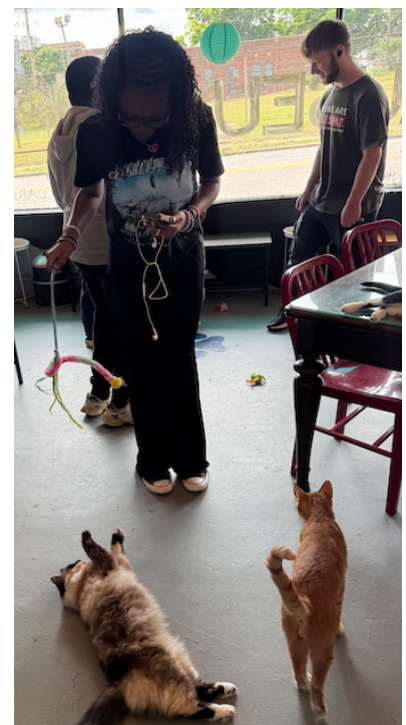
We were so excited to spend the summer with our Pathways students. They joined us for days full of learning, creativity, movement, field trips, and, most importantly, time together.

Our primary and elementary students participated in a fun and educational Bug Camp, where they learned about cooperation, kindness, and the important role insects played in keeping our world in balance. They created their own versions of the bugs they were studying, tasted honey as they learned about bees, and enjoyed a trip to the zoo, where they were able to continue exploring and learning in a hands-on way.

Our Middle School students focused on STEM, thanks to a new collaboration with Virginia Western Community College's STEM department. During the first few weeks of summer, Virginia Western joined us to lead fun, engaging projects with the students each day. They also enjoyed a fitness-focused curriculum filled with relay races, basketball, and plenty of opportunities to move, compete, and laugh together.

Our High School students spent the summer exploring art, creativity, and new experiences in the community. They visited the Taubman Museum of Art, Art Project Roanoke, and the Kitty Cat Café. They also visited Virginia Western Community College, where they learned how to create stained glass during a studio trip.

Students from all grade levels enjoyed even more summer fun. Our Middle and High School students participated in a lunch and mini golf outing, and all our students enjoyed a trip to Splash Valley to swim. We wrapped up the summer with our own Pathways cookout and water day, bringing everyone together to celebrate a wonderful summer of learning, connection, and joy.



Celebrating Our New Chapter

Pathways ended the school year with so much joy, gratitude, and celebration. We began by gathering with our students and families for our End-of-Year Awards Banquet in our beautiful new gym. Families shared a meal together, staff celebrated the incredible growth and hard work we have witnessed throughout the year, and each student was recognized with a unique award created just for them.

Serving students in grades K–12, Pathways is committed to supporting the whole child and the whole family. Throughout the school year, our students worked hard to strengthen their academic skills, build healthy relationships, develop important life skills, and grow socially and emotionally. They learned perseverance, practiced teamwork, discovered new strengths, and created lasting memories through experiences both inside and outside the classroom. At the same time, our staff walked alongside families by providing encouragement, connecting them with valuable community resources, and serving as a trusted source of support and referrals whenever needed. The Awards Banquet was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate not only academic progress, but also the resilience, character, confidence, and personal growth that each student demonstrated throughout the year.

This year's theme was "Our New Chapter," so all the awards were book-themed, which felt especially meaningful as we celebrated not only the end of another successful school year, but also the exciting new chapter unfolding in our new building. Together, we reflected on how far we've come while looking ahead to the many new stories still waiting to be written.

The banquet was made even more special by the presence of several honored guests who joined us for this milestone celebration. We were delighted to welcome Board Chairman Bev Fitzpatrick and his wife, Shirley, Treasurer Wayne Lewis, Board Members Ken Sizemore and Teresa Wulff, as well as Tom MacMichael, founder of Pathways for Youth, and his wife, Mary, a longtime volunteer at PCC. Their attendance at the very first Pathways Awards Banquet in our new facility made the evening especially memorable and reminded us of the many people whose vision, leadership, and dedication have shaped our journey.

We are also deeply grateful to the wonderful volunteers from Covenant Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church, who graciously served our families during the banquet. Their hospitality helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where families could simply enjoy being together and celebrate their children's accomplishments.

We continued the celebration with one of our favorite Pathways traditions, our annual last-day-of-school trip to Loch Haven Lake. Students spent the afternoon swimming, kayaking, fishing, and simply enjoying time together in the sunshine. It was a day filled with laughter, connection, adventure, and well-earned fun after a year of learning, growing, and showing up for one another. Experiences like these help build friendships, confidence, and memories that extend far beyond the classroom.

A special thank you to Salem Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church for helping fund this important memory-making field trip. Their generosity gave our students the opportunity to celebrate the end of the school year together and create memories that will last for years to come.

We are incredibly proud of our students and thankful for the families, staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners who make Pathways feel like home. Every achievement, whether academic, social, emotional, or personal, is a reminder that when children and families are supported, they thrive. As we close one chapter and begin another, we look forward with gratitude and excitement to all that lies ahead.



Hope Begins with a Caring Community



20 Impact 26 Report



A client from our service area recently came to PCC seeking food assistance. She shared that she was struggling to afford both groceries and her household bills. As she spoke, she began to cry.

I reassured her that PCC is here to help families during difficult times like these, and she seemed relieved after learning that we could provide support. She thanked me several times and explained how hard it has been to keep food in the house with only one income. She also shared that her rent had increased and that her spouse is currently waiting to be approved for disability benefits.

"It's hard out here," she said. "Everything is rising, and sometimes I just feel like breaking down." I reminded her that she wasn't alone. At PCC, we are here to help make sure families like hers have food on their tables and hope for tomorrow.

Sadly, her story is one we are hearing more often.

From January through June 2026, PCC has seen a significant increase in the number of families seeking food assistance. Many clients share similar experiences. Food assistance benefits that have been stolen, rising household expenses, and the difficult choice between paying bills or buying groceries.

The need extends beyond food. During the first half of 2026, 110 individuals received rental

assistance through PCC's Emergency Aid program. Overall, requests for rental and utility assistance have increased by nearly 35%, reflecting the growing financial strain many families in our community are facing.

Because of the generosity of our community, local churches, and faithful supporters, PCC has been able to respond to these increasing needs. Every donation and every volunteer has helped ensure that families receive food, keep their lights on, or remain in their homes during times of crisis. We are deeply grateful for the compassion shown by those who continue to support our mission.

As the need continues to grow, so do the gaps we must work together to fill. Food donations are always needed to keep our pantry shelves stocked for families facing food insecurity. Financial support is equally important, helping PCC sustain daily operations and vital programs, including emergency rental and utility assistance for neighbors experiencing financial hardship.

Whether you choose to volunteer, donate food, or make a financial gift, your support allows PCC to continue responding when families have nowhere else to turn. Together, we can provide more than food or financial assistance, we can offer hope, stability, and the reassurance that our neighbors are not facing these challenges alone.

Thank you for partnering with PCC to care for our community. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue meeting today's needs while building hope for tomorrow.

Tax-Smart Giving Opportunities for Donors

There are exciting opportunities for supporters to make charitable gifts while potentially receiving valuable tax benefits.

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be eligible to make a gift directly from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD allows you to support the mission you care about and may reduce your taxable income. If you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a Qualified Charitable Distribution may also count toward meeting your annual RMD requirement.

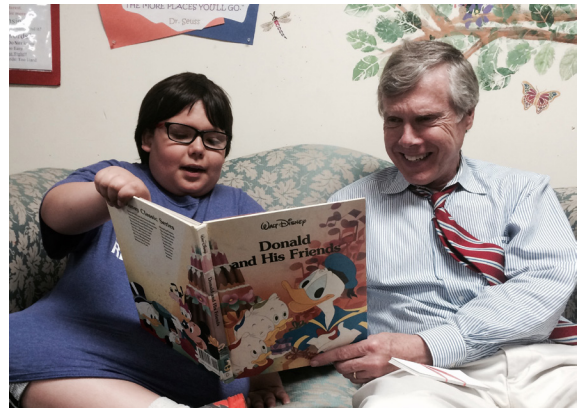
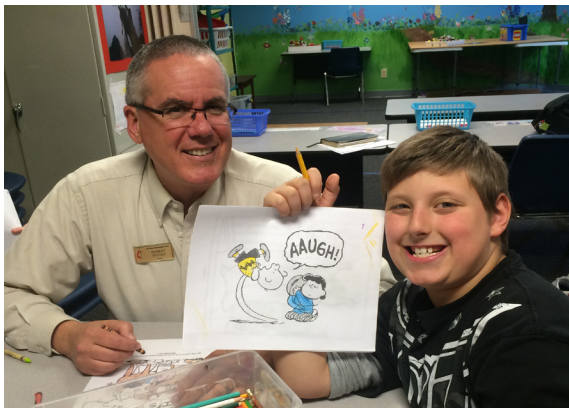
In addition, beginning with the 2026 tax year, a new federal tax law allows many taxpayers who claim the standard deduction to also receive a tax deduction for qualifying charitable cash contributions. Eligible taxpayers may deduct up to \$1,000 for single filers or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly, subject to IRS rules and requirements.

These changes provide additional ways to make a meaningful charitable impact while potentially receiving tax advantages.

*Because every donor's financial and tax situation is unique, we are not able to provide individual tax, legal, or financial advice or make recommendations regarding charitable giving strategies. We encourage you to consult your own financial advisor, tax professional, or estate planning attorney to determine whether these opportunities are appropriate for your circumstances before making any charitable gift.

Need for Tutors!

Pathways for Youth is looking for caring volunteers for the upcoming school year! We are seeking tutors for Primary and Elementary students Monday through Thursday from 4:00-5:00 p.m., mentors for Middle and High School students Monday through Thursday from 4:45-5:45 p.m., and volunteers who would like to share special skills such as music, cooking, karate, sports, art, or more on a weekly or bi-weekly basis from 4:45-5:45 p.m. We would love to have you be part of our Pathways family this fall!



Bridges Out of Poverty Update

Our Bridges Out of Poverty trainings continue to make a meaningful impact throughout the Roanoke Valley. Since launching the program in 2018, we have trained 318 individuals representing 48 agencies, institutions, and churches across our community.

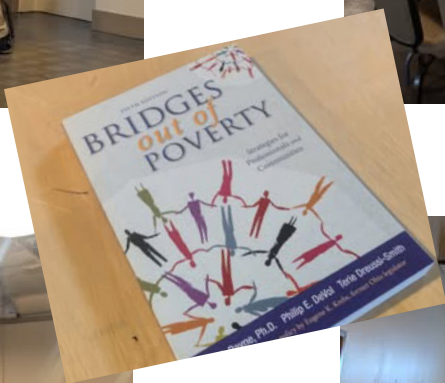
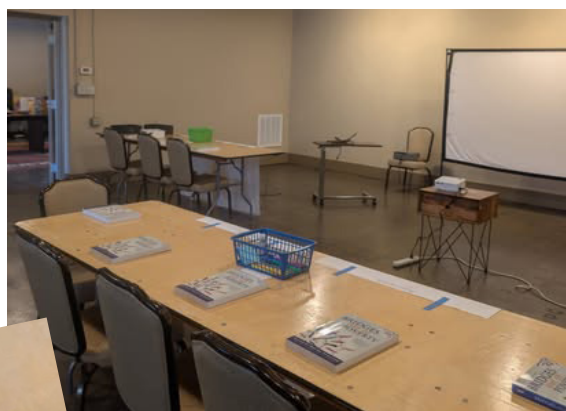
Some of our newest participants have come from Bradley Free Clinic, Blue Ridge Behavioral Health, Roanoke City and Roanoke County governments, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Roanoke City Public Libraries. We also continue to train PCC staff, interns, volunteers, and board members. Many of our long-time Bridges partners regularly send new employees to attend, and we are always encouraged to see past participants return for a refresher course.

In the coming year, we will continue offering Bridges Out of Poverty workshops to help our community better understand the realities of generational poverty and how to respond in ways that are both compassionate and effective. Through hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and engaging exercises, participants gain a new perspective on the challenges many families face every day while learning practical strategies for building stronger relationships and supporting lasting change.

We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm participants bring to each training. Attendees are eager to engage in discussions and activities, making every workshop a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

We are looking forward to our next Bridges Out of Poverty training this fall, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 3. If you are interested in learning more or would like to reserve a spot, please contact Susan Frank at sfrank@pccse.org or call 540-982-2911, ext. 122.

Susan Frank, Bridges Facilitator



Melanie's New Position

I am so honored and excited to share that I will be stepping into the role of Co-Director of Family Programs for the 2026-2027 school year. Pathways is a place that I truly adore with my whole heart, so the opportunity to continue growing here, in a community and program that mean so much to me, is something I do not take lightly.

During this next school year, I feel incredibly grateful for the chance to work alongside Lori Pilcher and to continue learning from her wisdom, compassion, and deep commitment to this work. Her guidance means so much to me, and I am truly thankful for the opportunity to grow under her leadership. I will also be completing my Master of Social Work degree during this time, and I am excited to keep growing both professionally and personally while continuing to serve the students and families of Pathways, who inspire me every day.

This new role feels like such a meaningful next chapter, and I am incredibly thankful for the trust, support, and encouragement I have received along the way. I look forward to all that is ahead for our students, families, and programs, and I am so grateful to be part of the story being written here.

Melanie Straley, Co-Director of Family Programs



Welcome Bari Elmore



I have been working at PCC as the Pathways Assistant for a few months now since I completed my internship from Virginia Western's Human Services program. I was an intern in the Pathways for Youth program from January to May 2026, and I'm incredibly grateful for the experience. It's fascinating to see the different ways in which the staff gets involved to help the community through our different programs. Everyone is so kind and welcoming, and I really enjoy working with the kids. It's always so much fun to help during our daily activities and get to know the kids' personalities in the process. I'm so glad to be able to work in a supportive environment where I know we're making a difference.

Bari Elmore, Pathways Assistant

Volunteer Spotlight

If you have been in the PCC on Tuesday mornings, you have probably seen the smiling face of Tom Gisiner (known as Tuesday Tom) around the building. Tom has been a faithful volunteer for two years and has become the unofficial PCC handyman. No project is too big or small, and even if he doesn't know right off how to get it done he will find a way!

Tom is a lifelong resident of the Roanoke Valley and member of the Presbytery. Before retirement, Tom worked as an engineering equipment salesman and was also the director of transportation for Bedford County Public Schools. Tom had heard about the PCC since its inception, and so when he retired he was interested in learning more and being able to give back. He says that he likes the variety of tasks at the PCC, and that there is always something to do – even in a new building!

Tom lives in Vinton with his wife, Sandra, who used to serve on the board at PCC. They have two sons and one grandson. Tom served for years as a Scouting of America leader and is an Eagle Scout. He serves as a lay minister for a Presbyterian church in Rocky Mount. In his free time, Tom likes to do yard work, read, and repair small items around the house.



Young Hearts, Big Generosity

Young Hearts, Big Generosity

Second Presbyterian VBS supports Food Pantry



This summer, the children and leaders of Second Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School chose PCC's food pantry as their service project, and their generosity quickly became something truly special.

After learning more about how PCC's food pantry supports families in our community, the children set a goal to raise enough money to help provide food for seven families. With an estimated cost of about \$75 to provide a food order for a family of four. Their original goal was \$525.00.

By Tuesday, they had already passed that goal and decided to challenge themselves even more by raising their goal to \$1,000.00. By the end of the week the children had collected an incredible \$1,208.92. Later we received confirmation that the updated final total was \$1,709.46!

Their excitement, compassion, and willingness to serve are a beautiful reminder that you are never too young to make a difference. We are so grateful to Second Presbyterian Church, the VBS leaders, families, and children who helped make this generous gift possible.

Thank You To Our Donors

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Honorariums

Dr. David A. Kirk
My Grandchildren
Janet Schell
Annette Schell
Pamela Welsh
My Sisters
Richard G. Harvey
FEPC 175th Anniversary

Memorials

Barbara Lampros
Nancy Farthing
Brad Killinger
Nancy Farthing

Charles & Deborah Reynolds
Tambra Wrenn
The Claytor Family
Nancy Farthing
Connie Chandler
Dr. Ron Mergl
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Pamela Welsh
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Gail S. Trussell
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Mabel Bowman
Rockingham Methodist Church
Rev. Jo Ellen Hetherington
Stanley & Rosemary Huffman
Wesley Lynch
Thomas & Mary MacMichael
Thayer Walker

Churches

Belmont Christian Church
Belmont Presbyterian Church
Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church
Colonial Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Garden City Baptist Church
Melrose Baptist Church
Mount Pleasant United Methodist
Ninth Street Church of the Brethren
Northminster Presbyterian Church
Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church
Salem Presbyterian Church
Second Presbyterian Church
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church
West End Presbyterian Church
Westhampton Christian Church

Donations listed in this newsletter were received from April 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026. If we have inadvertently omitted your contribution, please contact Kelli Mundy at 540-982-2911.

Thank You To Our Donors

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Community Foundation Serving
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of Virginia
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PORCH
Roanoke County Retired Teachers
Rockingham Court United Methodist
Women
Thrasher Memorial United Methodist
Women
Thurman Charitable Trust

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Capital Campaign Donation

Anonymous
Evelyn Lewis
The J. K. Speas Family Charitable Fund

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In Loving Memory **Thayer Walker**

A faithful friend, volunteer, and part of the PCC family



Remembering Thayer's Heart for Service

We remember and honor Thayer Walker, who faithfully served PCC through her employment for more than a decade and continued giving her time as a dedicated volunteer for more than 20 years.

Thayer was a caring resource for our Pathways families and had a special heart for children and seniors we serve. Her kindness, compassion, and commitment left a lasting impact on PCC and on our community.

We are grateful for the care she gave so freely and for the countless lives she touched. Thayer will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The PCC Family

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PCC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make our Open House such a special and successful event. Your generosity, support, and commitment to our mission helped create a welcoming space for our community to come together, learn more about PCC, and celebrate the work happening in Southeast Roanoke.

Because of your partnership, we were able to showcase our programs, connect with families, volunteers, donors, and community members, and share the exciting vision for PCC's future. Events like this are only possible because of people and organizations who believe in the importance of serving others.

Thank you for standing alongside PCC and helping us continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the individuals and families we serve.



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- **SEASONINGS**
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*Refrigerated Items can **ONLY** be dropped off on
Mondays or Tuesdays.

For more information or to set up a
drop-off, contact April Lewis at
alewis@pccse.org.



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The Presbyterian Community Center is an equal opportunity provider.