

Report to the Pathfinder Membership

For the 6 month interim period ending September 30, 2004:

NEW FISCAL YEAR. Pathfinders has changed fiscal years, and will now report for twelve month periods ending in September. This allows us to more clearly report on the results of our major fundraising event—our golf tournament—and allows ample time to review financial results before making the appropriate filings (in contrast to conditions subsequent to the already crowded December year end accounting period). Accordingly, this report covers the interim period created as a function of changing fiscal year ends.

NEW STAFF: Having made substantial progress in our formative years with no full time or part-time staff, the Board of Pathfinders recognized early in 2004 that we had reached the point where hiring a full time Executive Director was necessary to further our goals. Accordingly, a Search Committee convened and, after careful consideration, hired M. Alisa Rock as our first Executive Director. Unfortunately, due to personal considerations regarding her own young son with autism, Alisa found it necessary to resign shortly before the end of this fiscal period. Pathfinders responded by inviting Alisa to join the Board, which she subsequently did. Thus, although we have lost a most impressive Executive Director, we are delighted to retain Alisa as a valuable Board Member.

(Subsequent to the end of the fiscal period, the Board restarted the search process and succeeded in hiring Dawn Koplos, formerly the Director of Development for Civic Works, a non-profit providing community services in Baltimore. Dawn has both a son and an uncle with autism, providing her with a unique perspective on the lifespan issues affecting these individuals.)

CONTINUED FUNDING. Once again, we had another hugely successful golf tournament. Thanks to Family Sponsor Trey Opfer, and in particular the outstanding efforts of Rick Opfer, Pathfinders' Board Member and father of this young boy with autism, Pathfinders succeeded in raising over \$100,000 net of expenses at this year's event.

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE RESOURCE CENTER. Through September, our website pages had been visited over 63,000 times, nearly doubling the results reported for the first year since opening. Clearly, our media awareness campaign and subsequent efforts to get the word out had an impact. Additionally, Resource Center Coordinator Linda Pearl has now directly assisted over 500 families who have contacted her for help.

IN SUMMARY: Some things change—our fiscal year, the person serving as our Executive Director—but one thing does not: our commitment to our mission.

“To find a path for our children.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Pathfinders, Inc.,

Brian R. Mund
President
November, 2004