

The transition from the high school environment to living and working in the community presents young people with new situations where Self-Advocacy can be critical.

The *PathWays* is designed to empower and support young adults with developmental disabilities, ages 16-24, in achieving their Individual Self-Advocacy goals and dreams.

Using principles of Self-Advocacy, coaches and peers will work with individuals and their families to set personal goals, to complete the process of attaining those goals, and to be able to apply the skills of Self-Advocacy in future endeavors.

If you have questions
about this
exciting program,
please contact
Pam Goodman,
Project Director,
708.508.2577

PathWays Partners

LaGrange Area Department of
Special Education

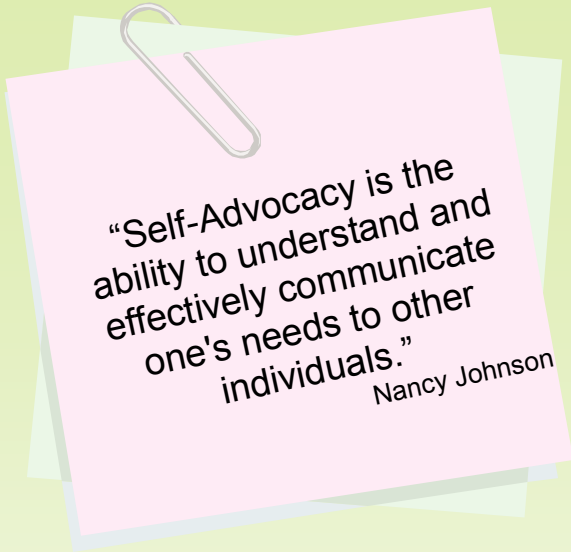
EmployAlliance/West Suburban Chamber of
Commerce and Industry Foundation

Hinsdale South and
Hinsdale Central High Schools

Lyons Township High School

Riverside Brookfield High School
Helping Hand

PathWays is funded by a
grant initiative through the
Illinois Council on
Developmental Disabilities



“Self-Advocacy is the
ability to understand and
effectively communicate
one's needs to other
individuals.”
Nancy Johnson

PathWays

A Program to Support
Self Advocacy in
Young Adults with
Developmental Disabilities

An Invitation

Self-Advocacy is about being able to make meaningful decisions that affect one's life and ultimately determine which life path will be taken.

PathWays is a new initiative designed to encourage young adults to more actively participate in the important discussions regarding their life plans.

Seventy five young adults with developmental disabilities, ages 16-24 years, will be selected to participate in this two-year program.

High school partners are:

Hinsdale South

Hinsdale Central

Lyons Township

Riverside Brookfield

LADSE

Community Partners are:

Helping Hand

West Suburban Chamber of Commerce
and Industry Business and Education
Council Foundation/EmployAlliance

PathWays self advocacy program will support learning and experiences that will allow young adults to achieve their personal maximum Self-Advocacy. Through a team of an Advocacy Coach and a Peer Advocate, participants will be guided through a process of self discovery and advocacy skill building while setting their personal goals.

A unique feature of this program is a two-week Self-Advocacy Summer Academy where participants will refine their goals and skills.

While participants will be setting their own personal goals, ten additional areas of Self Advocacy will be addressed:

- Asking for Help
- Self-Advocacy at Work
- Developing a Leadership Role in Planning Meetings
- Peer Relationships
- Knowing Rights
- Self-Esteem and Building Self-Confidence
- Taking Chances
- Learning about One's Disability and Explaining It to Others
- Knowing about and Asking for Accommodations
- Leadership

The PathWays team has arranged an informational meeting about the program at your high school.

Please RSVP and mark your calendars to come and see what this new project could mean to the young adult in your life!

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

RSVP: _____

School Liaison Contact:
