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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2021

### **Commit to Kids Giving Day August 31**

North Branch, MN — It can be so easy, when seeing the news, to imagine that hunger and violence are issues far from home. In reality, these problems are unfortunately universal and never far from your front door. At Family Pathways, a local nonprofit, we see this reality every day in the families who seek support from our food shelves and domestic violence programs. The hidden tragedy of our community is the “kid next door” who is scared or hungry, and whose experience remains invisible.

In the Family Pathways service area alone (Central MN and Polk County WI) the number of children who qualify for school meal assistance would fill the Xcel Energy Center 2.5 times. That's 51,400+ children in households of 4 with an annual income of \$34,450 or less. 37,400 children in our service area alone have witnessed and/or experienced physical or emotional abuse at home. Family Pathways is able to help only a fraction of these children each year, serving about 6,500 local kids each year.

These are not kids in some far away place, these are the kids you see in your neighborhood every day. These are kids you have a chance to help. From providing food to supervising visits with separated parents to offering shelter from violence, our work - with your support- makes a difference in the lives of kids in our community.

On **August 31st**, Family Pathways will be hosting a 24-hour digital event to raise money in support of the services that ensure our local youth are healthy, safe, and well. **Commit to Kids Giving Day** is an investment in the services Family Pathways provides for youth in East Central MN and Western WI. To be part of Giving Day and to make an impact on the lives of kids in our community, visit [www.FamilyPathways.org/CommitToKids](http://www.FamilyPathways.org/CommitToKids).

#### **About Family Pathways**

Family Pathways is a 501(c)3 non-profit committed to standing by the side of our neighbors since 1978. We work together with partners, individuals, businesses, organizations, and faith communities who are passionate about their communities.

Over the past four decades, we've adapted to the needs of the communities we serve in the City of Forest Lake; Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties in Minnesota and Polk County in Wisconsin.

Family Pathways' support services provides healthy food access, domestic and sexual violence prevention and victim services, supervised visitation, and services for older adults and caregivers.

To find out more about our services, visit [FamilyPathways.org](http://FamilyPathways.org).



The graphic features a central white rounded rectangle with an orange border containing the text "Commit to Kids" in a blue, hand-drawn font. The word "to" is smaller and orange. To the left is a circular inset photo of a young girl with dark curly hair. To the right, the words "Giving Day" are written in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below the main graphic, the date "August 31" is written in a large, orange, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the text "FamilyP" and "Com" is visible in a blue, sans-serif font.