

Pathways to Recreation, Inc. was formed for charitable and educational purposes. Specifically, Pathways would like to develop and cultivate a wider public awareness of the need for recreation and leisure services for people with disabilities and ensure that everyone who wants to participate can.

The organization was created in 2004 to enable people with disabilities and special needs opportunities to participate in therapeutic recreation activities, which will help them to achieve a higher level of leisure independence. This will be done by providing financial, volunteer, marketing and educational support to Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS), so they can continue to provide quality therapeutic recreation programs; expand services to people with disabilities; and stay abreast of changes in the field of therapeutic recreation through continuing education opportunities.

*To generate revenue and provide financial assistance* to program participants and TRS, the organization will create various levels of sponsorship; conduct fundraising activities; write grants; and solicit donations. Funding will then be available to send participants to camp, special events and travel programs; subsidize TRS activities to keep the programs affordable for participants; send TRS staff to professional workshops and conferences to keep up with their continuing education requirements, as well as present sessions on therapeutic recreation.

*To provide volunteer assistance*, the organization will create a speakers' bureau to make presentations at community organizations, businesses, colleges and high schools. Volunteers will be recruited for TRS activities and organization fundraisers. The organization will set up a volunteer bank, as well as refer volunteers to TRS. With more volunteers, more participants can be served through TRS on trips and at special events, as staffing levels will increase; more fundraisers can be planned and implemented by the organization.

*To increase marketing efforts to educate* the public about the importance of therapeutic recreation, the organization will set up displays at community events, such as disability awareness fairs, health and wellness fairs; make presentations at community meetings; create a brochure; create a website; develop a video; send TRS staff to attend and present at workshops and conferences, where they can promote TRS. With increased visibility, more participants will be aware of and can be served through TRS; more funding can be generated by the organization through private donations and sponsorships; more people will be aware of the mission of TRS and the importance of therapeutic recreation programming to meet the leisure, social and independent living needs of individuals with disabilities.

Board members were recruited and board member responsibilities were defined; officers were then elected from existing board members. The board reviewed the bylaws and revised, as needed. Form FTB3500 was submitted to the California Secretary of State, along with the bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation, and Pathways was granted tax-exempt status in California. Other activities include developing a mission statement; developing a purpose statement; hearing a presentation by TRS outlining their programs, clientele and budget; and purchasing board insurance.