

Volunteer Leadership Corner

Building PathDriver: My Path to Drive an Impact

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[About the Author](#)



It may sound cliché, but becoming a parent four and a half years ago made me look at the world with a new sense of responsibility. No longer am I accountable for my actions alone, but I am charged with raising two small humans to be good citizens. To me being a good citizen means caring for those less fortunate by birth or circumstance, protecting the vulnerable and actively working to make the world a better place.

Through circumstance of birth – not merit – I benefit from a lot of privilege. I have access to education, healthcare, a safe home, more than enough food, the ability to travel and resources to make choices in my profession. I have never had to flee a dangerous situation and my nuclear family is intact and safe.

A transition and an opportunity

Until January, we lived in Brooklyn, a dense and complicated place where it wasn't uncommon to hear 20+ languages on our local playground on any given day. I was active in our synagogue's social justice efforts in Brooklyn – a collection of advocacy, hands-on service and one-off activities – but still searching for a way to make a greater impact. When my husband, kids and I relocated to Atlanta, finding a way to get involved in local efforts, to use my time and energy to support vulnerable communities, was a huge personal priority.

After attending a volunteer orientation in the spring, I got involved in an effort to create a brand-new fundraising channel for New American Pathways. Together with the passionate staff of New American Pathways we built a new “do-it-yourself” fundraising platform, called [PathDriver](#), which launched with the Board and a few volunteers on World Refugee Day in June.



With DIY fundraising anything can be turned into a way to raise money – forgoing gifts on a birthday or significant anniversary, taking on a challenge to shave your head or eat a ghost pepper, or even a local lemonade stand. And it's easy. In a matter of hours after sending an email to just a few of my family members and friends I raised more than \$1,000 and each time I follow up, more critical unrestricted funding goes to New American Pathways.

These are critical times – do something!

The newly emboldened xenophobic climate in the country makes supporting the vulnerable and actively fighting discrimination against the ‘other’ all the more important. We're facing a volley of challenges ranging from Muslim bans and caps on refugees from specific, targeted countries to dangerous proposed legislation like Senator Perdue's RAISE Act and torchlit, white supremacist marches.

If you are wondering what concrete steps you can take to make a real difference, join us and become a [PathDriver](#). Get creative or use the ready-made templates to raise money to help vulnerable refugee and immigrant populations in our local community.

