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CONTACT:

Kristen Porter, 617-859-3036, ext. 23
kporter@pathwaysboston.org

Bob Hornstein, 617-859-3036, ext. 28
bhornstein@pathwaysboston.org

Pathways to Wellness Celebrates 20 Years of Revolutionizing Holistic Health Care

BOSTON – On October 21, 2009 Pathways to Wellness will mark its 20th anniversary with an event entitled: *Celebrating Pathways to Wellness, 20 Years of Revolutionizing Holistic Health Care*.

The 20th anniversary party will celebrate Pathways' achievements and honor two individuals whose support and partnership have helped make Pathways the strong and vibrant organization it is today: Matt Fishman, Vice President for Community Health, Partners Health Care and Tristram Blake, Retired Executive Director, South End Community Health Center.

Pathways began in 1989 as the AIDS Care Project, an all-volunteer organization of acupuncturists who banded together to provide free acupuncture treatments to people with HIV/AIDS.

In the year 2000 the agency expanded its services beyond HIV/AIDS and created Pathways To Wellness, a public health modeled, non-profit, holistic therapies clinic providing affordable acupuncture, shiatsu, and Chinese herbs to all people needing care. The expansion allowed the agency to generate revenue in light of dwindling public dollars and to share their decade of expertise as specialists in chronic illness with the broader population.

In 2006, Pathways began a new partnership with the South End Community Health Center, and moved its practice to 1601 Washington Street in Boston's South End. Pathways continues to provide free acupuncture to people with HIV/AIDS and beginning in 2008 to veterans.

Over the years Pathways has developed many innovative programs including fertility enhancement, integrative pediatrics, treating Cambodian refugees for post traumatic stress disorder, and a home care program for people with severe disabilities, among others.

Today Pathways has grown to become one of the largest public health holistic therapies clinics in the world. Each year Pathways provides 12,000 affordable acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, and shiatsu bodywork treatments to 3,000 patients from diverse demographic and socio-economic backgrounds throughout Massachusetts.

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