

Path To Shine

August 2011

Summer Activities Rocked!

The children came running over the hill as soon as we pulled into the parking lot. "I guess they know the routine," said my new volunteer. Before I could reply, the children were extracting various supplies, books, a table and a box full of lunches. This was Meals on a Mission, and the enthusiasm and smiling faces said it all.

Alex, aged 5, did not know how to hold a pencil or crayon. Juan could catch a ball in one hand but he did not know how to write his name. Both these children were headed to Kindergarten in a few weeks. After working with our dedicated volunteers Alex was holding a pencil and deftly tracing letters while Juan progressed to writing his name unassisted. It was exciting to see the improvements they made.

Working outside in the summer sun with a group of children is hot and tiring work but their sincere appreciation, and eagerness to learn, made it all worthwhile.



Why Volunteer?

"Thank you so much for all the work you do with the kids, and thanks for letting me be a part of it. It's really changed my life." A volunteer.

Path To Shine is in the News

We were excited to have a reporter come and join us for a session of Meals on a Mission. Sydney had so much fun when she reported on this story, she came and helped out at Meals on a Mission for 2 days. After that she signed up to be a regular volunteer for our after-school program. Come and see what we do and how you can make a difference. The article can be found at smyrna.patch.com/articles/shining-a-path-of-love



Two Grants Awarded

Hearfelt thanks to the Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation, and the Episcopal Charities Foundation for the grants they recently awarded to Path To Shine.

The Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation's mission is to honor the Fitzgeralds by making a difference in the lives of others, primarily through the education and health care of the disadvantaged residents of Metro Atlanta & Georgia. www.bettyanddavisfitzgerald.org The Foundation awarded a grant for our Director, Lesley-Ann Drake to attend training at the LEAD Institute of Atlanta. LEAD's mission is to build business capacity in emerging and small faith based ministries through training, mentoring and coaching. www.leadatl.org

The Episcopal Charities Foundation ecf.episcopalatlanta.org gave a grant for summer enrichment programs for children served through Path To Shine. Meals on a Mission was the result. Additional funding is providing training for our volunteers.

We are excited about winning our first 2 grants. We look forward to learning new skills, as well as being able to grow the program, thanks to these awards.

Save the Date



Saturday, October 1st
at St. Benedict's.
5-7PM Art, wine-tasting and chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres; \$15 per person.

7—8PM Concert with Pat Terry, gospel and country singer-songwriter; \$15 per person. For tickets please go to our web-site, www.pathtoshine.org or contact us using the information below.

Books, Books & More Books

We really appreciate our many supporters who have donated books during this past year. All of the children with whom we have worked have been the happy recipients of many books. They are thrilled to chose their own books, to have books they don't need to report on, to have books they can keep. Choosing their own books is the first step in

reading for pleasure and we have been so lucky to see the joy in the faces as they realize this is a book of their own. *Please keep the donations coming!*



How You Can Help

- Donate: Send a check, or visit our website and donate on-line through PayPal.
- Volunteer: Be a weekly tutor. Previous teaching experience is *not* necessary
- Be a Mentor: Share the story of the challenges you overcame as a child.
- Friend us on Facebook facebook.com/pathtoshine Follow us on Twitter @pathtoshine

For more information about Path To Shine, or any of these articles in particular, please go to our web-site at www.pathtoshine.org or contact us:

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Pouring Over Maps



One of the segments this summer was to teach the children about different areas of the world. We found a large world map and as soon as we rolled it out, the children loved it! Rising 3rd grader, Elizabeth, knew Egypt was on the continent of Africa, and proudly showed us the location on the map. And four year old Edgar learned the difference between a polar bear and a panda bear!



PTS Macon Several students from Macon's *Path To Shine* program took part in summer activities at Southside Community Church's Family Life Center. They enjoyed Museum Camp where reps from various museums educated students about their facilities, bringing hands-on experiences involving arts, science and aviation technology. Following Museum Camp, some students attended Vacation Bible School, sponsored by Episcopal churches in Macon, centered on bullying prevention. *Path To Shine* kicks off its second year of tutoring children from Bruce Elementary in September.