

Path To Shine

May 2011

Path To Shine Starts in Macon!



We are excited that Path To Shine recently started working with children in Macon. Janet Tidwell from Christ Episcopal Church is the Program Coordinator for Macon, and she is currently working with volunteers from St. Francis Episcopal Church as well as her own church. Janet reports, "We had been trying to start an after-school program for about seven months before I spoke to Lesley-Ann. She came down to Macon to meet with us, and she gave us the tools that we needed to get started." The program is hosted at Southside Com-

"I can't wait until Thursday. It's my favorite day of the week!" A Path To Shine participant

munity Church and there are currently 11 children from 1st - 5th grade, working with 10 volunteer tutors. The children enjoy snacks prepared by Ms. Alma & Mr. Benny, stalwarts in the community, with additional assistance being provided by the Community Partnership. The summer will bring opportunities to participate in Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and in Museum Camp at Southside Community Church. What a great start for this program!

May 21 Yard Sale 8AM-12 noon

Stop by St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna for your chance to pick up some great bargains! You can drop off



items to be donated on Friday, May 20th any time between 4PM & 7PM. Or you can rent a 10' x 10' space for \$50 (a 6' table will be provided) to sell your own articles on Saturday 21st.



Ugly Pants Golf Open, May 16

Join us at Dogwood Golf Club where fun will be the focus of the day. Don't play golf? No problem! Come at 12:30PM to have lunch and shop at the Silent Auction. A big thanks to our sponsors, Carolina Lumber & Supply Company, and Red Brick Brewing Company. You can register on-line at www.mysaintb.org

Training for Volunteers

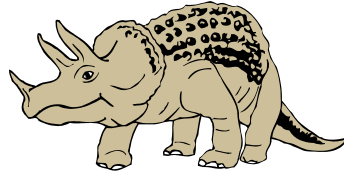
Protecting the children who participate in Path To Shine is vitally important. To this end, every adult volunteer is required to complete Safe-Guarding God's Children training. This program is offered through the Episcopal Church, and has been used in the Diocese of Atlanta since 2004. The training includes "information and guidelines on screening, interacting, monitoring, training, and reporting with regard to adult supervision of and interaction with children and youth".

Additionally we have completed a Path To Shine training module for our volunteer tutors. The training includes segments on expectations, responsibilities, listening skills, classroom management, children's self-esteem, and good manners. Why take time to talk about good manners? Read the article on the next page.

Summer Program



Vacation is one of my favorite summer childhood memories. Sadly children who are disadvantaged don't take summer vacations; most of them stay at home watching hours of mindless television. These children typically lose up to 3 months of schooling every summer compared to their wealthier counterparts who actually gain knowledge every summer. This summer we will welcome 12 children to the Path To Shine Summer Program for 4 weeks of enriching activities, free of charge. Their field trips will take them to the



Fernbank Museum of Natural History to see the new children's exhibit & to Turner Field for a Braves game. They will spend time with rescued animals courtesy of Our Pal's Place, and will learn to sew, thanks to Lady Bug Designs. All this will be presented while working on reading and math skills, having breakfast and lunch daily, and ensuring there is time for play.

Save the Date!

Arts d'Vine! On October 21 starting at 5PM we will enjoy an evening of great local art, wine tasting & heavy hors d'oeuvres, followed by a concert with Pat Terry.



Teaching Manners to the Children

When you are struggling to pay the next bill, or worried if there will be food to put on the table for dinner, teaching good manners to your children may not be on your priority list. And even if it is, the stress of your daily life may get in the way. Yet good manners are vital in making a good first impression when you meet a new teacher or later in life at a job interview. Learning to say "Please" and "Thank you", learning to stand up when you are introduced to someone and to look them in the eye when you are interacting with them, these essential life skills are part of the program at Path To Shine. One needs only to read books written by, or about educational reformers such as Ron Clark or Geoffrey Canada, to realize that disadvantaged children can benefit greatly from learning good manners.



How You Can Help

- Donate: Send a check, or visit our website and donate on-line through PayPal.
- Be a Weekly Mentor: More mentors means more children get more support.
- Help with Summer Camp: Can you commit to 1 week? June 23, June 30, July 5, and July 12
- Friend us on Facebook.



For more information about Path To Shine, or any of these articles in particular, please contact us. Lesley-Ann Drake, Director, Path To Shine, 2160 Cooper Lake Road SE, Smyrna, GA 30080
www.pathtoshine.org, lesleyanndrake@pathtoshine.org, www.facebook.com/pathtoshine, 678-279-4308