

# Path To Shine

February 2012

## A New Path for Smyrna Children



With the new year comes a new path to success for a special group of children. **San Benedicto**, Path to Shine's newest branch, launched in January and serves about 20 kindergarten through third grade students each Sunday afternoon at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna. The program is so popular that there is a waitlist to participate; a Path to Shine first. Path to Shine Director Lesley-Ann Drake explained that she chose to keep the class size small in order to remain true to the program's model. Each volunteer is paired with the same two students each week to maximize individual attention. This also ensures that volunteers feel they're contributing in a meaningful way.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Feb. 11: BeLoved! Valentine's Art Market**, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the home of Scott and Cyndi Smith, 4465 Paper



Mill Road in Marietta. Shop high quality, artisan-made jewelry, clothing and accessories while sipping wine and tasting treats from Christophe's Kitchen. \$10 donation

**Feb. 25: 6th Annual Children's Warehouse Sale**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Atlantic Station next to Dillard's. Designer children's clothing and accessories offered at deep discounts. \$5 admission fee

**April 28: Yard Sale**, 7 a.m. to noon at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church. Rent a 10x10-foot space and a 6-foot-table to sell your wares for \$35; you keep the proceeds from your sales. OR drop off donated items between 4 and 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27, to be sold the next day.



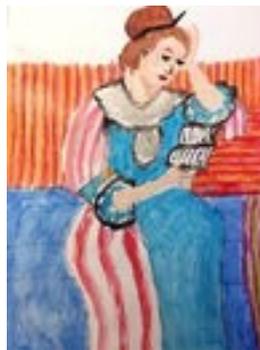
**May 14: Ugly Pants Open**, 12:30PM Dogwood Golf Club. Prizes, dinner & silent auction to follow at St. Benedict's.

*These events benefit Path To Shine; please support them.*

**Going green.....** Send us an e-mail if you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter electronically.

## Painting a Bright Future

One very talented Path to Shine student is painting her future bright. Nine-year-old Erin is a student at Path to Shine Olive



Springs. She recently earned the **Janet Conner Memorial Scholarship**, which entitles her to a semester of art classes at the Vinings School of Art. Erin earned this honor by submitting a sample of her

work (including the Betsy Ross painting pictured left and the rose pictured below) and writing an essay explaining why she should be the recipient of the scholarship. The award is given to a deserving student to honor the memory of Janet Conner, a Smyrna artist who passed away in 2010.



"This is wonderful," Rafael Cantillo, a Path to Shine Olive Springs tutor, said when he heard the news. "I am very happy for her and her family."

# Making Christmas Merry and Bright



Dear Path to shine,  
I hope you will have a fantastic Christmas break. I love Christmas so much that I feel like flying in Santa's sleigh. Maybe you will get a lot of presents for helping us learn for the next grade. I wish you a merry Christmas!

Above: One student thanked Path to Shine volunteers & wished them a Merry Christmas.  
Right: A handmade Christmas card from a Path to Shine student.

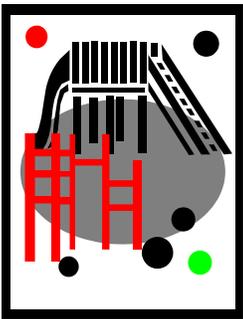
Imagine our delight when the children in our Marietta program showed up one December afternoon with homemade Christmas cards for us. We returned the favor a couple of weeks later with bags full of goodies. Santa stopped by their apartments and delivered boxes of gifts for the children in the program as well as all of their siblings, thanks to the generous folks at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church.



Above: Gifts from Santa, wrapped and ready for the tree.

## Macon Update

Path To Shine – Macon continues to provide a nurturing, energetic tutoring program for fifteen 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Bruce Elementary School. Students have focused on reading, learning and understanding sight words, and writing sentences. We have received donations of hundreds of books from tutors, the community & Path To Shine in Atlanta. We have also introduced the children to Brain Gym activities which allow the children to experience kinesthetic learning activities.



Southside Community Church, where we hold the program each week, was blessed with the gift of a new playground, complete with state-of-the-art equipment, thanks to a partnership with the 2011 Leadership Macon class and Habitat for Humanity. And thanks to the Canterbury Club at Mercer University, we have our first student tutor. We are working with other local colleges for additional tutors. We also have two high school soccer athletes who instruct the children in correct soccer techniques, - a very popular activity! Tutors and our partners are blessed to offer this ministry to our little brothers and sisters.

## How You Can Help

- Donate: Visit our website and donate on-line through PayPal, or send a check
- 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.



For more information about Path To Shine, or any of these articles in particular, please go to our website at [www.pathtoshine.org](http://www.pathtoshine.org) or contact us:

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