

# Path To Shine



May 2012

## Sizzling in the Summer Sun



Learning about Egypt last year, we made a mummy.

Why would anyone voluntarily spend time with a group of kids, sweltering in the summer heat outside, when they could be in a nice cool air-conditioned building? According to one volunteer it is "Seeing smiles that start cautiously, but soon become warm and freely given." A Board member noted that she has enjoyed the Board work, but she is very excited to have the opportunity to spend time with the kids that are served through Path To Shine. Middle school teacher, Ginny, said at the end of last summer's efforts, "It reminds me of why I became a teacher in the first place." It boils down (pun intended!) to spending time with the children.

Path To Shine Marietta will be running 3 weeks of summer enrichment (6/04, 7/09, 7/23) in conjunction with MUST, along with field trips to see a Braves game, a visit to a farm, and a week of Vacation Bible School at St. Benedict's.

Path To Shine Macon will be offering VBS in the afternoon for the week of June 25-29 at Lynmore Estates. The theme will be Habitat for Humanity. Macon Habitat has built more than 20 homes in this community so this will be a particularly meaningful time for the participants.

If you can help for one day, or any number of days, in Marietta or Macon, we'd love to hear from you. We need **lots** of volunteers to make this summer fun and enriching for the children.

## Ugly Pants

Wanna have fun? Wearing your ugliest pants is only the beginning. Golfers and non-golfers alike can participate in this event which has become an annual St. Benedict's tradition. If you like golf you can sign up to play at the Dogwood Golf Club in Austell. Not a golfer? Join us for a family dinner at St. Benedict's with hot dogs and burgers, sides and desserts. The Caddy Day Silent



Auction offers some great items such as a flying lesson, 4 tickets and parking for a Georgia State football game, or a Creole dinner for 8, and much more—really! We will applaud the winners of the golf, and present the hand crafted, 2012 trophy for the Ugliest Pants. An event not to miss. We hope to see you there.

## ECF Grant Award

For the second year in a row we have been awarded funding by Episcopal Charities Foundation for summer enrichment programs. We are delighted that this will enable us to expand the horizons of the children, through the programs and adventures mentioned in the article above. Thanks, ECF!



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



## Stories of Good Reports...



### .....from Macon

“When can I go to Path To Shine? Is there a space for me, yet?” This is the request a little boy in Macon made of the school’s Social Worker. She says, “Children who attend Path To Shine one day a week make more progress than children who attend other programs 3 and 4 days a week.” There is a waiting list for children to get in to the Macon program, and the leaders are working hard to recruit more volunteers. Contact Janet Tidwell if you would like to volunteer. She can be reached at Christ Episcopal Church, Macon at 478-745-0427.

### .....from Marietta

“Will you help me color? I want to do a good job.” This was the request of our special ed. student who wanted to make a card for one of his Path To Shine friends. Jimmy has many hurdles to overcome but he has a good heart and he likes to help clear up. He challenges us with his mood swings which are heightened because he does not receive the medication he needs on a consistent basis. But his teacher has seen him make progress this year, and she credits Path To Shine with helping.

### .....from Smyrna

Jacob is in 4th grade and by Christmas he was failing all of his classes. His parents don’t have a lot of extra money but they got a private tutor for 2 weekly sessions, and they requested a place for Jacob in the Sunday afternoon Path To Shine program. His last progress report revealed all B’s and one C, a vast improvement. Jacob is proud of the progress he has made, and it shows in the way he holds himself. He has seen his efforts rewarded, and now he is motivated to keep doing well. If you would like to help out with the Marietta or Smyrna programs, please contact Lesley-Ann Drake; details below.



## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to the caring people who donate in so many different ways to Path To Shine. There are people who donate their time and talent, and people who donate monetarily. Others bring in donations of books, art supplies and school supplies, while others give their expertise to support a fundraiser, or build a playground. Churches provide space and weekly snacks, while someone else gives money for art lessons. Path To Shine could not function without the generosity of so many. On behalf of the children with whom we work, we say: “Thank you!”



## 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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