

# Path To Shine®

August 2014

Thanks for the Encouragement



Summer provided opportunities to Path To Shine children that they would not have had otherwise (see over for more scoop). We handed out hundreds of books (you can't read if you don't have books!), and we continued to be present in the communities, building relationships of trust and mutual respect. We will have 8 (yes, eight!) programs running by September from Canton to Columbus, Morrow to Macon, and that is thanks to the support from all of you reading this newsletter. Your support, whether it is a "like" on our Facebook page, donated school supplies, a visit to our website, or a financial gift—all of these ways encourage us to keep moving forward to help more children find their own 'path to shine'.

## 2013-2014 Results

We worked with 103 children last school year. Attendance averaged 89%, and the children reported that they were overwhelmingly happy to be in the program (9.5 on a 10 point scale). Our volunteers gave 3,141 hours of tutoring/mentoring time and our program coordinators put in another 500+ hours. When we see the smiles on the faces, and hear the good reports, every moment is worth it. You can help too! Just visit our website or contact us, and we'll find a place for you.



## Caring Makes a Difference

Joey's mom was ready to give up! He was having such a hard time in school that he was sent to an alternative school. The Macon program coordinator called Joey's mom to assure her that Joey was welcome to come back to Path To Shine. Joey not only came back but he buckled down, worked hard with his volunteer tutor, and became a leader. This is what relationship building can do.

We were happy to see a recently published report\*, funded partially by The Wallace Foundation, that cited evidence showing successful after-school programs had relationship building as a part of their model—just like we do at Path To Shine.

(\*Traphagan, Kathleen. **Grantmakers & Thought Leaders on Out of School Time: Survey and Interview.** July 2014.)



## What I Like About Path To Shine

From the children.....

- ◆ I like math
- ◆ I like my tutor
- ◆ I like doing puzzles
- ◆ I like getting help with my homework
- ◆ I like the books we get
- ◆ I like the food
- ◆ I like reading and the science
- ◆ I like when they help me
- ◆ I like when they be nice
- ◆ I like evreething
- ◆ There's nothing I don't like

# Ugly Pants—It's Not Only Golf!

## Sunday, Oct. 5 & Monday, Oct 6

Our biggest annual event is the Ugly Pants Golf Open where there really is something for everyone. Join us on Sunday, or Monday, or both, but please do join us! We'd love to see you and you don't have to play golf!

### Sunday 5th Oct.

- Brunch—prepared by Chef Rafael with an omelet bar, fresh fruit and pastries; \$5 pp or \$20 family max.
- 50/50 Raffle and Silent Auction Opens—Buy It Now! pricing available.

### Monday 6th Oct

Golf—1PM tee time at Dogwood Golf Club in Austell; gathering for prizes at the club-house afterwards. \$130 pp includes boxed lunch, goodie bag and carts, and Sunday Brunch too.

Reservations at our website or contact us: [lesleyann@pathtoshine.org](mailto:lesleyann@pathtoshine.org)



## Norcross News

The Norcross program started in January, and now, after the summer break, everyone is ready for the new school year. Starting Sunday Sep. 14, students, parents and volunteers will gather to play games and to get to know each other. In the coming months, Deacon Juan wil lshow students the tools of nursing and the tools of being a deacon; member of the church choir will bring the tools of music; and representatives from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will come to talk about their organizations.

## Presenting Opportunities

Obtaining a scholarship for private school. Whitewater rafting in Columbus. Six weeks of summer enrichment with Breakthrough. Riding a horse in Marietta. Bowling in Smyrna. Visiting Timco Aviation Service in Macon. Attending the local Vacation Bible School programs both as participants and as “helpers” (learning more responsibility and leadership skills). All of these opportunities were given to the children through Path To Shine, experiences that expand their worlds. And this is not a complete list by any means! We know that children from affluent backgrounds outstrip their less well-off peers when it comes to meaningful experiences outside of the classroom, and we also know that these experiences are a key component of being successful both in the classroom and in life. So if you would like to set up an outing for the children, in conjunction with your local program, please let us know! Guest speakers are also welcome. The more we can share with the children, the richer all of our lives will be.



## You Can Help

- Volunteer: Be a weekly tutor. Previous teaching experience is *not* necessary.
- Be a Guest Speaker: Share the story of the challenges you overcame as a child.
- Donate: Send a check, or visit our website to use PayPal for monthly deductions or one-time gifts.
- Shop at Amazon via the “donating & shopping” tab on our website, and we will get a commission.

For more information about Path To Shine and about the articles in this newsletter, please visit our website at [www.pathtoshine.org](http://www.pathtoshine.org) or contact us: Lesley-Ann Drake, Executive Director, Path To Shine, 2160 Cooper Lake Road SE, Smyrna, GA 30080. 678-279-4308 [lesleyann@pathtoshine.org](mailto:lesleyann@pathtoshine.org) [facebook.com/pathtoshine](https://www.facebook.com/pathtoshine)