

# Path To Shine®

February 2014

## Reading Cap Campaign



Why would an Episcopal priest have his photo taken wearing a yarmulke? Or an engineer who works on *freshwater* ecosystems be wearing a floppy beach hat? These are part of our Reading Cap Campaign - *designed to help children connect reading to life choices.*

We are busy collecting photos of people wearing hats, with a short explanation about how the hat connects to their life today. Send your "selfie" to our email address, along with this (completed) sentence:

"I am wearing a ..... hat. Learning to read in school helped me to ..... so now I can ..... and wear this hat."

We will start the campaign once we have 50 photos so send us yours, and then we'll let you know why the Rev. Brian Sullivan is wearing a priest's collar and a yarmulke!



## Northlake & Norcross Get Started

With Hispanic congregations in their midst, both churches have embraced the Path To Shine program. St. Bede's began in October, Christ Church in January. This makes 6 programs total, serving almost 100 children supported by about 60 volunteers. We hope to be serving 200 children by the end of 2014.

Watch our Facebook page to see our progress.



## Canton Scores, Macon Grows & More

The **Canton** program is keeping a steady enrollment of 19 children. We are very proud of William, in 2nd grade, for earning **OUTSTANDING** on his latest report card. Norma Houck is a treasured addition to our volunteer crew with her ability to keep the children focused and involved during story-telling time. We now have a total of over 800 books from which children check out a book each week to read at home.

**Macon's** program has been blessed this school year with many new tutors. As a result, we have been able to add three more children to our program. We are looking forward to our adventure in March when we will be taking the children to visit Timco Aviation Services. TIMCO provides aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services, and aerospace manufactured products to a broad array of customers.

On President's Day the **Marietta** program met as usual on a Monday, and we went bowling. This was the first time bowling for these children and they stepped right up to the challenge! A big THANK YOU to Brunswick Zone in Austell for making our excursion affordable. And THANK YOU to Olive Springs Baptist Church for all

you do to support us every Monday with free space, snacks and transportation. You are terrific!

On Sundays our **Smyrna** program is teaching us all to be more flexible. The children want to be at Path To Shine, and their parents want to get them there but with limited access to transportation in the typical family, attendance is an on-going challenge. Many of these children are behind in school, and desperately need the extra support and attention. We have been lucky to receive help from some Kennesaw State University students, whom the children love to hang out with—they are so cool!

To read more about any of our programs, or to get involved at a specific location, go to our website and look under Programs and Locations.

## Join us for Hunger Walk—March 9, 2014



Last year we took a group of Path To Shine children to participate in the annual Hunger Walk founded by the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Last year our summer program funding came from ECF, one of the Hunger Walk beneficiaries, and we wanted the children to “give back” to ECF by walking. We will walk again this year, and we invite you to join us! Use the QR code or go to [www.acfb.org/events](http://www.acfb.org/events) Scroll down to Hunger Walk and then to Episcopal Charities. Type Path To Shine under Team Name.



## Christmas!



It was cold outside but...the excitement was palpable, the smiles wide, and the gratitude earnest, as the children received a variety of Christmas gifts along with pizza and cookies.

Every child took home at least two brand new books - thanks to your support.



## Thank you! Thank you!

Your generosity has allowed us to upgrade the curriculum we use for group time - when we teach children about setting goals, over-coming obstacles, teamwork, good manners, finding their talents and gifts, and more. We were able to give brand new books to all of our students, and we have been traveling to establish more programs, so that we can help more children. Check out our website to see what your donation can do at Path To Shine.

## 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: Visit our website to use PayPal.
- Shop at Amazon via the “donating & shopping” tab on our website and we will get a commission.



For more information about Path To Shine 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)