

Path To Shine®

May 2014

What Have We Been Doing?



The Path To Shine® programs continue to impact the lives of the children they serve. Some of the children have been learning about perseverance through origami, some went to a barn and met a horse for the first time, and in Macon and Norcross the children learned about planting.

Consider how you can get involved with Path To Shine®. Perhaps volunteer for an existing program, or even start a new program (we can show you how). You can have fun while you support our work by playing in the Ugly Pants Golf Open on Oct. 6th; special foursome pricing of \$400 is available right now! Follow us on Facebook, or send a donation. Still not sure? Call us, email us, - we'll help you figure it out.

Another New Beginning: Columbus Program Starts

"Wow! Look at all the books. Can we take them home?"

Thanks to the efforts of Lisa Venable from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Columbus, and her husband Greg Herring, children have been learning about teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship for the past year through the game of soccer. Lisa and Greg have been coaching four afternoons each week at the Boxwood Recreation Center but they noticed the children also needed support with school work. After a visit one Sunday by our Executive Director, Lesley-Ann Drake, and some networking by Lisa, there was enough local support to start a Path To Shine program. With the parish in the midst of a Rector search it was a challenging time but they forged ahead, and began in March. Lisa says she owes a debt of gratitude to Sharon Hunter the Recreation Specialist who oversees the Boxwood Recreation Center; Ms. Hunter opens up the center to provide a safe space for the program each week. The hope is that there will be *FOUR* programs here—one for each group of children playing soccer—and that will require a lot of volunteers. Contact Lisa if you can help at lisa@wgherring.com



Volunteer+Word Bingo = Hello!



Alex didn't speak for weeks, and then one day he smiled, and clapped his hands as he realized he had one of the words he needed for Word Bingo. His facial expression was one of pure delight! It took one volunteer showing up faithfully each week in order to reach this child, one volunteer who gave him the time he needed to build up his self-confidence. And later he enjoyed

learning to dye eggs for Easter—a first time activity for all of the children in the Northlake program.

PTS Plows Through Transitions

Changes in Church leadership can spell trouble for some programs but thanks to the way we structure Path To Shine, both the Canton Program and the Norcross program kept meeting and supporting the children in their midst, despite changes in clergy in their parishes. Small, locally run programs can make a difference; you don't need big congregations and huge budgets. Contact us and let us show you how to start your own Path To Shine program.

Paper Planes and Cranes

Juan Carlos told his mentor he was interested in airplanes, so she bought a book about making paper airplanes. Four of Juan Carlos' peers wanted to make paper planes so they took turns reading the instructions and helping each other. They learned about patience, - it takes time to make a paper airplane that will fly; they learned about symmetry, - if both sides are not the same your plane will crash; and they learned about precision, - if you do not make precise folds your plane will not fly! This activity led to a book about kindness and a beautiful bird—a crane. Juan Carlos patiently followed the origami directions that came with the book until he completed his paper crane. A couple of weeks later he got a book about origami from his school library, and learned more folds. Gentle encouragement from his mentor led him to find a new hobby.

Reading Cap Campaign



Why would an Episcopal priest have his photo taken wearing a yarmulke? We need a few more photos before we can answer the question so email us your “selfie” and complete this sentence: “I am wearing a hat. Learning to read in school helped me to so now I can and wear this hat.”

Thank you for your generosity

UGA Extension Service Supports Macon Program

We love partnerships and Macon is a prime example. Four churches work together to provide mentoring and tutoring to children, and now UGA Extension service joined them. They visited the program and gave each child a sapling to take home and plant in the yard. Here is one young lad with his sapling, and there are a lot more smiles on our website.



Contributions of any amount help at Path To Shine. We have had a child donate money they earned from chores, and we have received grants from foundations, but individuals who make a monthly pledge are extraordinarily valuable. Thanks to Rob Rhodes & Deidre Greene, our newest monthly donors; please consider joining them.

Excursions! Help Wanted! Happiness Guaranteed for All!

Summer is the perfect time for you to help—for 2 reasons.

1) Fun outings, cool crafts, reading stories. Summer activities are free for Path To Shine children, and outings are important for them. Find out why when you read the article on our website under Life Enrichment. And: 2) People who volunteer are 42% more likely to say they are "very happy" than people who don't volunteer. According to the Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey of 30,000 American households it doesn't matter whether gifts of money or time go to churches or symphony orchestras — givers to all types of causes are far happier than non-givers. (See more under Donating & Shopping on our website.)

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 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 [facebook.com/pathtoshine](https://www.facebook.com/pathtoshine)