

Path To Shine®

February 2016

Hello 2016!



We are excited about all that 2016 has in store for Path To Shine®. We are expecting to launch two new programs this month, and at least one more later in the year; our Educational Consultant has completed our fourth year of curriculum, and is busy at work on Year 5 focusing on health; I will be presenting 2 workshops at Kanuga Camp and Conference Center in N.C. this summer at the annual formation retreat; and we already have two invitations to share the Path To Shine story in the first quarter of 2016. Yes, it is going to be busy, and that's just the way we like it!

Mr. Bill & Giselle

Giselle was identified by school counselors as a student who needed some special attention. It wasn't because she had any academic problems . . . her grades were actually just fine. "Painfully shy" described her because it really did seem to cause her pain to be around other people. She would not socialize with her fellow students, nor join in group activities and her head always seemed to be down. Something had caused her pain which made cocooning herself from others less stressful.

Giselle found a mentor, Mr. Bill, who helped pull her out of the protective shell in which she had wrapped herself. He was the perfect person to work with Giselle, content to simply sit quietly with her, waiting. He allowed her the space to be who she was, uniquely Giselle, a child of God. Giselle started to respond, and as she left the school building each week and walked up the hill with her fellow students, Giselle looked for Mr. Bill. When she saw him, she would break into a wide smile, answering the bright smile which Mr. Bill offered to her. Eventually she was able to join the other children in Path To Shine in their group activities, and her teacher and the school social worker reported that she was interacting and joining with her classmates. Her self-isolation was starting to end, and her trust in other people was gradually being restored, thanks in large measure to her time with Mr. Bill.



Learning to Listen



Anthony is a kindergartener in the Morrow program. Being a part of the program has helped Anthony grow socially as well as academically. To begin with, Anthony wasn't excited about doing his homework, listening, or following directions. Now he listens to stories, gets on with his homework, and does what he is asked to do. Anthony has been given a lot of encouragement from all of the teachers in our program, and he has blossomed in every way.

Share the Love with \$29 & 5 Friends

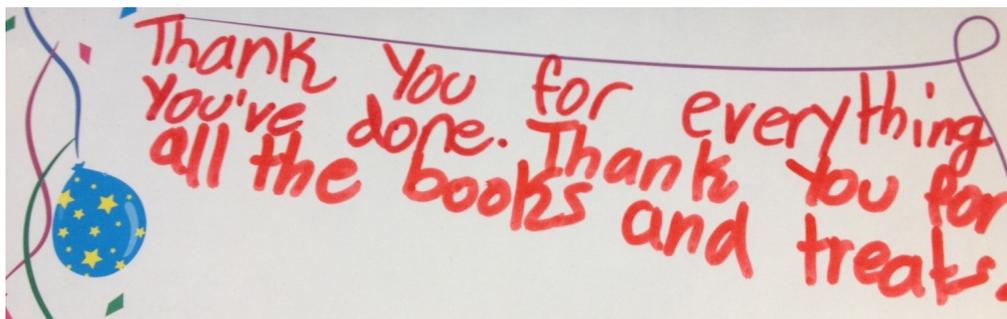
It's February, the month of love, and we're running a campaign to gain awareness and funding for Path To Shine®. It costs \$192 per day to run our non-profit organization, that's about \$1.50 per child served. We are asking you to donate \$29 to Path To Shine® HQ – just \$1 per day for the 29 days of February - and to share the Path To Shine® story with 5 people, asking them to also donate \$29 in this month of love. Why should you and your friends donate?

* [High school drop-outs are 47 times more likely to be jailed](#) than college graduates. *At Path To Shine® our vision is high-school graduation for every student. We encourage the children through guest speakers, goal-setting, and supportive conversations.*

* [Children in poverty will have heard 30 million less words](#) than their more affluent peers by the time they are 3 years old. *Path To Shine® provides books, and weekly story-time.*

* [Approximately 1:4 children live in poverty in Georgia](#). Ruby Payne, Ph.D. states one of the most reliable ways to escape poverty is for a child to build a relationship with a caring, trusted adult. *Path To Shine® provides an environment for children to do just that, thanks to our small ratios and committed volunteers.*

So join us, and **Share the Love** by giving children a Path To Shine®



Canton's Caring Christmas



A wish for each of the 16 children who attend the Canton program was placed on St. Clement's Angel Tree this Christmas. Their wishes were delivered the last session before the Christmas break, together with new books from Path To Shine®. Needless to say, the children were overjoyed! They showed their appreciation by writing thank you notes to the gift givers. The Canton program is now in its third year, and the ecumenical group of volunteers are actively involved with every aspect of the program. Special thanks to our guitar player, Mike Woltering.

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.
- Fund the Gap: Help a Path To Shine student of promise attend an independent school.
- Tell your friends about our work; perhaps they would like to get involved

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