



Inspiring under-served children to achieve hope-filled dreams

A Jubilee Ministry of the Episcopal Church

Winter 2016

Greetings!

During her recent fall break, Mariella spent the week with her mom – not taking trips or going on fun outings – but passing the time at her mom’s work, a T-shirt company where her mom does machine embroidery. At home, there’s no computer or tablet, and there’s no English spoken. When reading, Mariella comes across many words she can’t pronounce and doesn’t understand; not surprisingly her reading is below grade level. She’d love to participate in the after-school art program but there’s no extra money in her family to pay the fees.

This is Mariella. We are inspired by her...and hopeful for her future.

Just a few months ago, Mariella walked through the doors of Path To Shine® for the very first time. An only child, quiet and shy, she was initially hesitant to open up to her new mentor, Jane. Within a few weeks, the gift of Path To Shine’s committed volunteer philosophy took root, and she now enjoys recounting the highlights of her past week to Jane. *She saw her first shooting star! She scored more soccer goals than the boys at school! Her teacher recognized and praised her efforts!*

Week after week, Jane sees positive changes in Mariella. When they first talked about setting goals, Mariella decided to find her favorite poem in a Shel Silverstein book and read it aloud to Jane the following week. Talking about a longer term goal, Mariella decided she wanted to be on the “leadership stage” at school. Each week, she and Jane talk about what it means to be a leader, the behaviors leaders display, and what steps Mariella has taken toward her goal. And each week, we see Mariella growing her interest in learning and trying new things.

Jane tells us, “I am so grateful that Mariella found her way to Path To Shine®. It makes me so happy to see her face light up when she learns something new. And I am so fortunate that I found my way to this program and have the opportunity to work with her.”

Currently, there are approximately 150 children in 13 Path To Shine® programs around the State of Georgia working with 120 dedicated volunteers – caring adults who joyfully choose to spend an afternoon, once a week, mentoring underserved children. For all of this, Path To Shine’s current annual budget is less than \$70,000. As one donor noted recently, “You people do an awful lot with not very much money.” **Please help us do more.**

Thousands of Georgia children could benefit from our programs—children who need someone like Jane to be present each week, listening patiently, tackling homework, and celebrating accomplishments. **Please contribute today, so we may expand our programs and continue the great work of volunteers like Jane while inspiring**

Path To Shine® is a self-sustaining ministry of St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, and all donations are tax-deductible.

hopeful students like Mariella. You can visit our website www.pathtoshine.org to make a secure donation or use the enclosed donor card and envelope.

Your financial support directly contributes to generating positive and lasting impacts in the lives – and futures – of very deserving, underserved children. Thank you for joining us as we continue our mission of inspiring children to achieve their hope-filled dreams.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley-Ann Drake', written in a cursive style.

Lesley-Ann Drake
Executive Director
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p.s. Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Help us help more children feel the possibility of their lives through mentorship and education.