



Inspiring under-served children to achieve hope-filled dreams.

November 2012

Greetings!

Kayla is a 5 year old chatterbox with big brown eyes, and an infectious smile. She likes sidewalk chalk, and last week she drew a picture of a girl with a purple dress and pink buttons, a big sun, and a white flower. “Do you like it?” she asked. “Yes” I told her. And there was that smile again! Kayla started coming to Path To Shine recently, and we are enjoying getting to know her. She has some work to do to be where her teacher wants her to be but we are committed to giving her the support that she needs, just like we gave Luis. He went from a report card that was full of “unsatisfactory” last year, to being on the Principal’s list this year.



*Your donations make this work possible*—possible for us to be working in 3 locations, with 50 children and more than 30 regular volunteers. But there is a lot more that we want to do because there are a lot more children who need help. At Path To Shine we believe that by beginning with small steps, we can make a difference. When we take time with a few volunteers and a few children, we know that more will follow. When we give away books and school supplies, we know that other supplies will be donated to replace them. When we look outside of our own four walls, we



see other faith communities who could have Path To Shine programs as well. And when we let Kayla draw a picture with sidewalk chalks, she is happy and engaged and wants to come back to Path To Shine, so we can spend time working on academics.

Leonard Cohen wrote a lyric: “There’s a crack in everything, That’s how the light gets in.” As adults we might see the metaphorical cracks in our lives, and the activity of volunteering becomes the healing light. But for the children with whom we work, the cracks in the windows and doors where they live, allow not only the light to get in but also the cold and the bugs. At Path To Shine they have a safe place where they can practice academics, without having to worry about the cracks, and without being hungry.

We have an infrastructure that allows us to offer a low cost way for a community to begin to make a change, one group of children at a time. Volunteers from eight churches representing six denominations meet weekly with children in Smyrna, Marietta, and Macon; and another group will start in Canton in January. We are working with churches in Norcross and Morrow in the hopes that they will start Path To Shine programs as well. But with *almost one in four children living in poverty* in the State of Georgia, there are thousands of children who need help.

And so we are writing to ask you to make a donation to Path To Shine. Financial donations can be made securely on-line through our web-site or you can send a check. If you are not in a position to make a financial donation, we will happily accept your donation of time, books, snacks, treats, school supplies, or talents that you would like to share. Collectively we can make changes happen.

With thanks, and in faith,

The Rev. Lesley-Ann Drake,  
Director

#### Our 2012 Statistics

- We have served 50 children in 3 locations with an average 87% attendance
- Volunteers attended 94% of the time and donated over 1300 hours
- We gave away 627 used books, 131 brand new books, and 63 board books to younger siblings
- School supplies were provided for 30 children
- We provided 3 weeks of summer fun for 14 children, 3 excursions for 18 children, and Vacation Bible School for almost 100 children

#### Our 2012 Finances

- Our 2012 budget is projected to be \$28,914, virtually the same as our 2011 budget, despite more children, new programs, and a full-time Director. Donations of space, goods and time keep our expenses to a minimum.
- Our income was divided between individual donations (21%), corporate donations & grants (25%), and fundraising events (54%).



Path To Shine is a self-sustaining ministry of St. Benedict's Episcopal Church, located at 2160 Cooper Lake Road, Smyrna, GA 30080, providing after-school mentoring and tutoring for elementary school children. For additional information go to [www.pathtoshine.org](http://www.pathtoshine.org) or contact Lesley-Ann Drake, Director at [lesleyann@pathtoshine.org](mailto:lesleyann@pathtoshine.org)