

# Path To Shine®

## Winter 2019



### From the Director

Happy 2019, everyone!

Another year is upon us, and Path To Shine® is ready for the challenge thanks to the hundreds of people who support our work, give of their time and talent, and cheer us along the way! We are starting off 2019 with a rush of activity. We have *three* new locations starting up, and that means training new volunteers, handing out curriculum and books, and then follow-up site visits to be sure the programs are running according to PTS standards.

Our Board met for their annual retreat to finalize the budget and plans for the year. And more than twenty program directors met on a Saturday to learn about the impacts of poverty on a child's education, "new" math, and 4-H, as well as sharing stories.

We are sad to say "farewell" to Edith Woodling, who has been our Educational Consultant for the past 4 years and is retiring. Edith helped by writing the majority of our curriculum, as well as overhauling our training. Thank you Edith! In her place we are delighted to welcome Karen Wall, a 30+ year veteran school teacher. (Read more about Karen below.)

Keep in touch through email and social media, especially in February during our Share the Love campaign, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions about our work.

*In faith,*

Lesley-Ann, Executive Director

### Share the Love

Share the Love is coming in February! This is our fun annual campaign when we raise money to buy books and to provide sponsorships for enrichment activities.

### Here's how it works:

1. "Like" and "Follow" us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Throughout the 28 days of February, we'll share fun facts, great photos and important information with the hashtag #PTSShareTheLove



2. **Make a Donation of \$28** That's just \$1 per day for the month of February. We're working with about 200 children to provide books, enrichment activities, and educational support, while teaching life skills.

Use the QR code or go to [bit.ly/PTSShareTheLove](http://bit.ly/PTSShareTheLove) (*case sensitive*) You can also read more on our website at: [pathtoshine.org/fundraiser/share-the-love](http://pathtoshine.org/fundraiser/share-the-love)

3. **Share the Love!** Spread the word across your social networks. The more people who know about Path To Shine, the more children we can walk alongside and encourage to graduate from high school. **Help us grow our community of supporters!**



**Prefer to donate via check? Make your check payable to Path To Shine, and mail it to:  
2160 Cooper Lake Rd, Smyrna, GA 30080. Your contribution is tax deductible.**

## Welcome Karen Wall - Educational Consultant



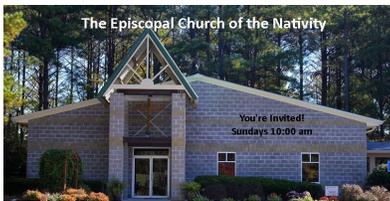
My name is Karen Wall. I am joining Path to Shine at this time as the new Educational Consultant, although I have been volunteering with the Marietta group for a few years. I grew up in Massachusetts, but have lived in the Atlanta area for many years.

I received my Education degree from Framingham State, and my Masters in Education degree from Georgia State. I have 38 years experience working with elementary school children and adults. I retired from the Clayton County Public School System in 2015 after working in various positions; 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom teacher, Early Intervention Program (part of No Child Left Behind), Literacy Coach, a ath Coach, and Instructional Site Facilitator. I am excited about taking on this position, and looking forward to meeting volunteers and children at different PTS sites.

Please join us in welcoming Karen to the Path To Shine family.

## Not 1, Not 2, but 3!

Our first new program for 2019 will be in Hawkinsville, opening this month with a merry band of Mentors from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, working with ten children from Pulaski County Elementary School. Thanks go out to the school for adding an extra stop to the regular school bus route so the children can get to St. Luke's in order to participate in the program.



Our second new program will be in Fayetteville with support from the Episcopal Church of the Nativity working in partnership with the Muslim community and the Jewish community. We are so excited about this particular site as it is our first Interfaith program, and we hope it will lead the way for similar arrangements in the future. The program will start with seven dedicated Mentors working with a dozen children at a mobile home community center.

And our third new site will be in Macon hosted at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We have been trying for four years to develop a second program in Macon, where Bibb County School statistics report that only 34% of third graders are reading at or above grade level. This program grew out of a successful summer CDF Freedom School program run through Appleton Episcopal Ministries. There is so much work to be done in Macon!

## ECF Grant Awarded!



**EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
FOR MIDDLE AND NORTH GEORGIA

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded an 18-month grant from the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia for nearly \$31,000. As our program continues to grow,

this funding will help with training and curriculum, books and enrichment activities.

This award is an endorsement of both our work over the last eight years, as well as our commitment to support and encourage elementary school children. It also signifies that we are fiscally responsible, structurally sound, and worthy of investment!

## Path To Shine Christmas Gifts



We gave out 403 brand new books to 174 children in 15 locations for Christmas reading. The children were very excited to receive their new books! And there were several programs where children made gingerbread houses and even met Santa! Thank you to everyone who participated.



For more information about Path To Shine and about the articles in this newsletter, please visit our new website at [pathtoshine.org](http://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)