

# Path To Shine

February 2013

## More Children Finding a Path



We are excited to have a new program in Canton! Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Carol Foster, Brinne Pruett and Pastor Zane Yi another group of underserved children are receiving help and support. Dr. Foster writes: "The combined efforts of members of the Celebration of Grace Lutheran Church and the Canton Seventh Day Adventist Congregation have made possible the launching of the Path To Shine after-school program in Canton, Georgia. These congregations are located in a single church building in the heart of a low income Guatemalan neighborhood. Sixteen children and ten dedicated tutors are presently

involved in this effort, meeting every Thursday afternoon. Communication with the parents remains a challenge as most of these parents speak only Spanish but we are blessed to have two tutors who speak fluent Spanish. Both congregations have budgeted for the program. In addition, we have received a grant from the Lutheran Financial Company. Thanks to Deacon Drake's training and strong support, along with her gifts of books and supplies, the program is off to a great start."



## Foster Care Didn't Stop Them

When two of the children from our Marietta program suddenly stopped attending we were anxious to know the reason why. We learned that they had been taken into foster care and had moved schools. We missed them but we knew foster care would provide a safer environment for them. After several weeks the foster mother called me to see if the children could come back to Path To Shine. The two boys had been asking her every day when they were going to go back to Path To Shine. They missed their friends in the program, and they missed their tutors. We worked together to make arrangements so that these children could be a part of the program again. It is not often that I get a hug from a gangly 11 year old boy but it was a great day when they returned, and the hug made it even better.

## Macon: Museums & Mentors

Our Macon group will visit Macon's Museum of Arts and Sciences in February. A new exhibit entitled, "Wild Music - Sounds and Songs of Life," will provide an interactive experience of animal sounds for the children. They will see tropical birds, snakes, monkeys, alligators and other wildlife. The second exhibit, "Sparks," is also interactive and features experiments with electricity. Children will be able to walk the nature trail at the museum, and afterwards dinner will be provided at Burger King.



"Last week I enjoyed reading to, and being read to by a sweet girl in the second grade. The time flew by and before we knew it, we had read several books to each other." These words are from Vicky Cork, a volunteer with the Macon program, and typical of the comments we hear from people who volunteer with Path To Shine. She went on to say, "You can imagine how helpful the encouragement and extra practice outside of school can be to a youngster." To volunteer, please see the contact information on our website.

## Communication Counts

Do you wonder how much of a difference the words we say to our babies and toddlers really makes when they start school? According to Dr. Laura Jones with Bright Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, by the time a child is 4 years old they will hear over 40 million total words if they live in a high income household; if they are living in a low-income household, they will hear about 12 million total words. This disparity is evident when one out of every 3 children in this country enters Kindergarten without the requisite skills for success in reading—skills that can be taught at home or in a good quality day-care setting, but skills which may not be so readily available to those struggling economically. Path To Shine programs are working hard to support these most vulnerable children.



## Summer Planning Begins

We hope to return to Turner Field to see The Braves this summer, and possibly have all the Path To Shine children go as one large group—about 60 of them! There will be other trips too, as well as fun activities indoors, and Vacation Bible Schools at each of our locations. But we need drivers with large sized vehicles, and chaperones. Please contact us if you would like to help.



Please join us for an evening of good food, music, wine and art, graciously hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Boyd Eaton in their lovely, historic home on Howell Mill Road. The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers will perform on two different occasions during the evening—possibly flash mob style! There will be time to enjoy the refreshments as well as the work of local artists. Buy your tickets on-line now for \$40 per person. Price is \$50 after April 14th. Proceeds benefit Path To Shine and The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers. More details on-line.

## Yard Sale & BBQ too!

- \* You can rent a space to sell your own items at the Yard Sale for \$35; sign up on the website.
- \* You can bring items to donate to the sale on Friday, March 22 between 5 and 7:30PM. (No clothing, please.)
- \* You can come to St. Benedict's in Smyrna between 7AM and noon to find some terrific bargains on Saturday, March 23.
- \* Order BBQ on the website for pick up on Saturday. We'll be offering chicken, & bags of pulled pork. It will be cooked to order so make sure you let us know what you like by ordering ahead.



## Children's Warehouse Sale

For great deals on designer clothing for babies, toddler and young children's clothing, visit the Warehouse Sale on **Feb. 23** from 9AM—4PM. Details at [www.childrensboutiquewhsale.com](http://www.childrensboutiquewhsale.com)

Please go to our website at [www.pathtoshine.org](http://www.pathtoshine.org) or check our Facebook page at [facebook.com/pathtoshine](https://facebook.com/pathtoshine) for more information about our programs. Contact information for each of our locations (Canton, Macon, Marietta, and Smyrna) is also on our website under "Programs and Locations".

Feedback or questions? Contact our Director, the Rev. Lesley-Ann Drake, at [lesleyann@pathtoshine.org](mailto:lesleyann@pathtoshine.org) or call 678-279-4308. Path To Shine, 2160 Cooper Lake Rd SE, Smyrna, GA 30080

## Going Green

We now send most of our newsletters via e-mail. Using e-mail keeps more money for programs for the children. If you prefer a paper newsletter, please let us know.