

# Path To Shine®

## Summer 2016

### Learning Outside



Summer is a great time to learn outside of the classroom, given the right opportunities. Several of the children who are involved in Path To Shine® programs, and some of their younger siblings enjoyed field trips as well as fun indoor activities (stories from a few of our programs follow). Summer is also a good time for our Path To Shine "graduates" to give back by helping out, and we are always delighted to see them and catch up with their news. Our first graduates are headed to High School this year, which seems hard to believe but we are confident the skills they learned at Path To Shine will help them on their journey.

Thank you for all of your donations that help make this work possible - and keep us growing (see our article overleaf). Please share our story and this newsletter with friends and family, and remember to follow us on Facebook so you can keep up-to-date as we go through the year. And if you would like to visit one of our programs, we would love to see you. Just send us an email so we know to let you in!

## Columbus Capers

We have had a wonderful summer taking advantage of the educational and fun offerings in Columbus, Georgia. Three volunteers and six students went to see "Junie B. Jones The Musical" at the Riverside Theater at Columbus State University; we all got dressed up and watched the cute dance and musical routines. Another outing that we took was to see some "Radical Reptiles" at Oxbow Meadows. Only two students were brave enough to go but we saw a baby alligator, turtles, tortoises, lizards and a giant albino python; one of the students even touched the python! We learned how loud alligators can roar and how much they eat. Two years ago some of the children went fishing with Mr. Greg; it was a big hit with the boys and has become an annual event. We are so pleased to share our enjoyment of the outdoors in this way, and to share some lessons about "the real world" far, far away from electronic devices.



## Marietta's Day Out



The children from our Marietta program met for 2 weeks of fun this summer as well as attending St. Benedict's Spirit Week. The highlight for everyone was the outing to the Dunwoody Nature Center where the children and adults split into teams to participate in a scavenger hunt. Many of the children in this program have never ventured beyond their neighborhood so the ride on the church bus was peppered with questions and full of excited squeals! We will start back with our fall program in a couple of weeks and we already have children on the wait-list.



## 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.
- Donate: Send a check, or visit our website to use PayPal for monthly deductions or one-time gifts.

## Perry's Week of Summer Fun



We have only had Path To Shine here for a little over 3 months so we wanted to take advantage of the summer to reach out and grow for the fall. We took a week in June to share our passion, and invited neighborhood children to come and meet us. Each day 17 children came to enjoy crafts and painting and story-time, along with a dose of exercise and some new foods—including fresh pineapple, fruit tacos, and coconut water. The children also learned about the environment, and were each given a flower to plant in a bio-degradable dish. Thanks to the Houston County School District each child went home with breakfast and a healthy snack for the next day. We are looking forward to starting back, and working with some of the new children we met this summer.

## Canton's Caring

Our program in Canton is a partnership between Lutherans, Adventists and Episcopalians. We are thankful for the chapel space where we meet, knowing that we can provide a safe and loving place for the children in the community. This summer we had four wonderful days with the children in our program, and some siblings. We started with a barbecue (34 children and 6 adults attended), followed by a craft day, a movie day and a cooking day. There were smiling faces all around!



## Morrow is Moving



St. Augustine's Path To Shine is beginning its third year and we can't believe it's gone so fast. We have had many of the same children since day one and we hope to see our program grow this year. We started meeting in the Morrow Public Library but over the summer we moved our supplies to our church where the program will be held when we start back next month. This will give us a larger room in which to work, and a playground for the children to enjoy. Two years of building relationships and a quality program have resulted in the parents wanting their children to continue in the program, and they have committed to bring them to St. Aug.'s. We're excited!

## New Programs Coming

There are several elements required to establish a new Path To Shine program such as completing training and background checks for every volunteer, lining up supplies, sorting out logistics but the most important element is people who are willing to give up something in order to support children who need extra attention. We hope to start four new programs this fall, and that will make 15 locations across the State where you can make a difference—from Columbus to Canton. Check out the list on our website under the [locations](#) tab, and ask yourself how you can get involved. We promise you won't regret it.



## Ugly Pants - Oct 2 & 3

We're busy getting ready for our biggest annual fundraiser and we'd love to have you join us. "But I don't play golf" I hear you say - and neither do I! So join us for brunch on Sunday, and the silent auction with some fabulous dining experiences and other goodies open for your bids. Ugly Pants is also a *great* way to advertise your business: one of our major sponsors told us she had a direct referral the week after her business was on the Ugly Pants banner. Contact us for more information or look on our website and click on the picture of these zany golfers on the front page.



For more information about Path To Shine and about the articles in this newsletter, please visit our website at [www.pathtoshine.org](http://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](mailto:lesleyann@pathtoshine.org) [facebook.com/pathtoshine](https://www.facebook.com/pathtoshine)