

Path To Shine®

Summer 2018

From the Director

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to be starting back for our 9th year of Path To Shine®! Our various programs have been busy collecting school supplies, setting calendars, and recruiting volunteers. Registration forms are being handed out, and conversations with school administrators have taken place. Our training materials have been updated, and packets are being compiled for our August dates. (Register on-line by August 20th if you are coming to a training session, please!) Curriculum books have been ordered and are arriving, ready for delivery to our 15 locations (see below for the scoop on our latest programs). New Board members will attend their first meeting in September but they have already given up a Sunday afternoon for orientation.

It's a busy time, as it is every fall at Path To Shine but this year comes with a gift - the arrival of Phyllis! She has joined our team to help with communications and around the office. She is a delight and we are so happy!

Thank you to all of you who support our work with donations of all sizes. We couldn't do this without you.

In faith,

Lesley-Ann, Executive Director



"Raising the Bar"

PTS Crowd-Funding Campaign

August 7th - September 5th

All non-profits depend on a diverse source of donors and PTS is no exception. This month-long campaign is being supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta because the Bishop believes in the work we are doing. That's quite an endorsement! Our goal is to raise \$10,000, and your donation will help us to reach our longer term goal of enrolling 250 students in 20 programs by 2020. Visit the Path To Shine Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pathtoshine/>) for a link to help contribute to our goal now through midnight September 5th.



Together we can make this a reality!

Summer Camp & Career Week



Smyrna mentor and high school student Kiran Gourisankar, and her younger sister, Kirti held a week long camp/career week. They even had recent PTS graduate Leonardo stop by to lend a hand.

The camp featured firefighters, a pediatrician, and a veterinarian who came to speak with the students and educate them on the intriguing aspects of their careers. There was also a field trip to the outdoor Aviation Wing of Marietta to see the big planes.

Two New Affiliate Locations Join Path To Shine

Join PTS in welcoming College Park and Macon (Downtown) affiliate locations. We are very excited to see how the school year will develop for these two groups. Lead by Rev. Bryan Hinson (St. Paul's Episcopal Church Macon-Downtown) and Rev. Terri Brice (St. John's Episcopal Church College Park) they are prepared for a rigorous yet fulfilling school term. We can't wait to see how the children will bloom and grow by next May!



Annual Appreciation Events

Path To Shine commemorated the end of another school year with Appreciation events held at St. Benedict's in Smyrna and at St. Paul's in Macon. Several of our programs participated with volunteers, mentors, leaders and students coming together, meeting peers from other programs and acknowledging achievements.

Path To Shine would not prosper if it weren't for the dedication of its volunteer community and affiliate churches. Last year the donations of time, space and food added up to the equivalent of **\$330,000!**



Canton Enjoys VBS

Canton PTS volunteers and parishioners of St. Clement's Episcopal Church sponsored (11) students for VBS (Vacation Bible School) this summer. It was a wonderful experience for the children who attended from June 11-15. And in the spirit of Path To Shine, three of our "graduates", Melissa, William and Maria, helped out as group leaders!

The children participated in a variety of events and enjoyed their fellowship with the St. Clements community. Affiliate mentors Stephanie Timm and Linda Reis taught Bible stories, and Bill McArthur helped out, too. On the last day there was a water-slide. Everyone had a great time!

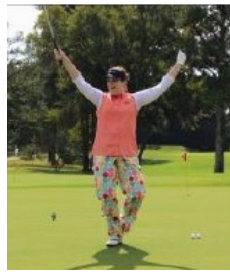


Splash!



PTS affiliate location Macon - Lynnmore Estates took a fun-filled and educational trip to the Georgia Aquarium on May 24th. What made this trip even more special was that it was the first visit to the Aquarium for each student (If you have not been to the Georgia Aquarium, it is worth the trip.) Imagine the children's faces when they saw how large a grouper actually is!

Ugly Pants 10th Anniversary!



Open to All!

Registration for our annual event is now open!

Join us for dinner and show on Saturday, Oct. 20 (Adults only but options for babies through 12 year olds will be provided.)

Golf will be on Monday, October 22 at Brookstone Country Club, & includes breakfast, lunch, fleece vest (thank you Jonquil Sporting Goods for your support!) and more.

Summer Backpacks & School Supply Drive

Several of our programs collect backpacks and all sorts of school supplies - pencil boxes, crayons, pencils, notebook paper, folders and so much more. School supplies and backpacks can add up to more than \$100 per child, and when parents are struggling to pay rent and put food on the table, school supplies may not fit into the budget. We strive to give children the supplies they need for school so they can focus on learning. Between the programs in Kennesaw, Columbus, Canton, Marietta, and Smyrna, approximately 200 children, (some from Path To Shine as well as other children) went back to school equipped and feeling positive about starting the new school year. One first grader put on her new backpack and danced and twirled exclaiming how much she loved her backpack. Happy faces, giggles, and excitement for the new school year are abundant when you have the supplies you need.

Thank you

For more information about Path To Shine and about the articles in this newsletter, please visit our new website at 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 facebook.com/pathtoshine