
THE PTS[®] PATH TO SHINE POST

SEPTEMBER ISSUE | 2021



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NEW PATHS ON THE HORIZON

It's no secret that partnerships are the lifeblood of Path To Shine. And no partnership is more important than those formed between PTS students & mentors. From day 1, students embark on an educational journey with their mentors. They walk hand-in-hand through grade levels, life experiences, and everything in between on their way to 5th grade. For us, mentorship doesn't stop at academics. Whether a student needs help improving their reading level, or building confidence among their peers, they can look to their PTS mentor as an ally for guidance and support. Forging these bonds is fundamentally vital to our mission. When students have a partner on whom they can rely, doors are opened for successful futures.

Therefore we must ask ourselves, "how do we reach more students"? We expand our reach by opening **THREE MORE PTS PROGRAMS!**

KNOWLEDGE NUGGET Roughly **1.2M** high school students drop out each year. Literacy is the single biggest factor that determines a student's likelihood of graduating. Source: Regis College Resource Guide

Starting the second week in October, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is sponsoring PTS-Dunwoody, for which Kingswood UMC is providing use of their space. Students from Chesnut Elementary Charter School in Dekalb County will be paired with mentors from all walks of life; folks of the Christian faith, Jewish faith, & no faith all coming together to help pave the way for brighter futures for these students.

Christ Church Episcopal will head up PTS-Norcross, which will sponsor students from Norcross Elementary School. Remember those training sessions we mentioned earlier? It's no surprise that our Norcross session is one of the largest we've had as the eager mentors prepare to launch in a few short weeks!

Thanks to support from Appleton Episcopal Ministries, St. Francis Episcopal Church will sponsor our second program in Macon, GA. This will double the number of students with access to mentors in that area.

Partnerships give our programs life! The students, their mentors, and the wonderful organizations that support our mission all come together to create an awe-inspiring synergy that makes a long-lasting impact on the lives of the students! As these partnerships grow, we grow too, connecting more and more students with invaluable support and guidance.

THAT puts the SHINE in

PathToShine®



DID YOU KNOW?



We award all 5th graders with two gift cards for books and school supplies when they "graduate" from Path To Shine. This happy graduate got a brand new backpack with his gift card. Now he's ready to take on 6th grade!

BACK TO SCHOOL

As the kids head back to school, so do our PTS programs across Georgia! The pandemic has been a time of evolution and advancement for our organization. 2020 launched us into brand new virtual territory, which in many ways has opened new doors of exploration for our mentors & students alike. As some of our programs ease back into in-person sessions, we continue to seek new ways to engage the students in our programs... both virtually AND face-to-face.

Lesley-Ann & Karen also collaborated to renew the PTS training materials. We extend our sincerest thanks to all of our devoted mentors who have gathered from all over Georgia to train & plan for launching our programs this semester!

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Hello TO OUR
FUTURE E.D.

A FUN EVENING IN THE LOW COUNTRY

We brought the coast to Smyrna with another amazing Low Country Boil. After last year's hiatus, we were thrilled (AGAIN!) to partner with St. Benedict's Episcopal Church for this event. It's always one of our favorite nights of the year! The friends, the food, the fun...it was a night to remember.



Photo Credit: Bill Monk, PIV Media

Thank You to all who supported
this year's LOW COUNTRY BOIL

WELCOMING MARIE DAVIS

Following an extensive search, Path To Shine is excited to announce that Marie Davis will become our new Executive Director, upon the retirement of Lesley-Ann Drake at the end of November.

Marie comes to us with a broad range of experience in working with children, mentoring, community outreach and in various leadership roles. Most recently, Marie has been Director of Mentoring for Center Point in Gainesville, Georgia, and has worked with the Georgia Provider Council for the National Mentor Network (mentoring.org). Our Transition Committee was flattered to receive many outstanding applications, and was impressed not only with Marie's outstanding experience and qualifications, but with her passion, vitality and calling to advocate for children. Please join us in welcoming Marie to Path To Shine.

While we welcome Marie, we also salute and honor the Founder of Path To Shine, and its original Executive Director, Lesley-Ann Drake. It is Lesley-Ann's vision, energy and faith that not only created Path To Shine, but established a foundation that has grown into numerous programs helping children in need across our state. As we welcome Marie, please join our Board of Directors in honoring Lesley-Ann by recommitting to carrying her vision forward, as we all work to expand Path To Shine's reach to every child in need.

Dan Kniffen
PTS Board Chair