
THE PTS POST

NEWSLETTER



HELLO

SPRING GREETINGS!

The year is racing by. Seasons are changing, the kids are kicking off summer break, and your Path To Shine® family is already preparing for next semester. We honor the 27 mentees moving on to the 6th grade as confident PTS graduates, excited to master the next chapter of their educational journey. We hope to open more program locations next semester, ushering in new mentors and mentees and the invaluable partnerships they build together.



It's the perfect time to **SPRING INTO ACTION** and help us create even more paths to success for the dozens of children who put their trust in our programs.

BRING ON THE 6TH GRADE!

Our programs really enjoy celebrating the mentees who graduate from PTS each spring at the end of their 5th-grade year. Here's a few snapshots!

(Remaining pictures can be viewed on our digital newsletter - email info@pathtoshine.org to learn more)



CHECK OUT WWW.PATHTOSHINE.ORG/FUNDTHEGAP TO SEE HOW WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THESE FINE GRADUATES BEYOND THE 5TH GRADE.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

Marie B. Davis



Transition is a critical time & Path To Shine is experiencing transition! My thanks to Fr. Ben Day, Rector at Christ Church in Kennesaw, who wisely handed me a copy of *The first 90 Days*, by Michael D. Watkins. Not only does

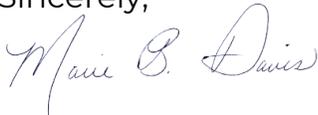
Fr. Ben sponsor the PTS-Kennesaw program at Christ Church, he also serves on the Board of Path To Shine. Mr. Watkin's book discusses ways to be inspired by challenges. As my first 90 days have come and gone, I am thrilled to do this work! What a great opportunity to continue to grow and build Path To Shine.

The foundation laid in the first 11+ years of Path To Shine has certainly served as great inspiration. Last year, PTS not only made a change in leadership, but we also made the decision to file for 501(c)(3) status as a stand-alone non-profit organization. The decision of the Founder, Lesley-Ann Drake to retire and begin the next phase of her life was the catalyst to create an even bigger pathway for Path To Shine. Lesley-Ann's dream was to obtain 501(c)(3) status that

allows PTS to apply for more funding and be more visible outside of those who know and love the program.

Thank you to the wonderful Board, Affiliate Directors, mentors, and supporters who have continued to support and “visioneer” with me! Please take a moment to enjoy the pictures from site visits and upcoming festivities. If you have not subscribed to our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Twitter pages, please do so. Join us on this exciting journey!

Sincerely,



Marie B. Davis, Executive Director



We're working hard to expand our reach! See how we're engaging local communities in new ways in hopes of creating new partnerships and programs across the state.



Earlier this month, GA Power invited Marie to speak on behalf of PTS about "becoming a mentor." PTS will be featured in GA Power's new collection of opportunities for their SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES, through which GA Power hopes to engage at least 250 employees annually in mentorship within local communities across Georgia. PTS sees this as a HUGE opportunity to recruit new mentors and reach more children!



Marie recently had the privilege of speaking with Stone Payton LIVE on Cherokee Business Radio. Go and listen! Marie gives some wonderful insight and speaks to the exciting future we have planned for PTS!

Email info@pathtoshine.org for these direct links



PTS - Macon (Downtown) is one of two PTS programs in Macon. This program is great at engaging mentees! Whether it's planting geraniums or painting floral arrangements, they really embrace the natural beauty of the Spring season. Keep putting the #SHINE in Path To Shine, PTS-Macon Downtown!

(Remaining pictures can be viewed on our digital newsletter - email info@pathtoshine.org to learn more)



PTS - ROSWELL HAS BEEN GOING NUTS WITH CREATIVE WRITING!



Flexibility is one important facet of the curriculum we developed for our Path To Shine programs. It provides the rubric by which we mentor the children in our programs while leaving room for creative adaptation in our programming. This is how we are able to maintain exciting, enriching learning environments for mentees. This is how we keep the kids eager to learn and try new things.

Recently, PTS-Roswell tried their hands at creative writing! The mentors worked with mentees to develop a fun short storybook.

VOILA! Bob the Squirrel was born!

Have a nice read and be thoroughly impressed with what the kids at PTS - Roswell created (with some loving help from their mentors).



Email info@pathtoshine.org
to request a copy of
BOB THE SQUIRREL



LET'S GET #SOCIAL!

February was all about SHARING THE LOVE! While we didn't quite hit our goal for this annual social media fundraising campaign, we still enter this new season on solid footing. Social Media is a continued facet of our approach to growth, and we're excited to expand our social reach as more communities come to know about PTS. We're regularly meeting with new potential partners in hopes of opening new programs and reaching more children. Our digital social network is often our "first impression" for those just hearing

about Path To Shine, so it's paramount that we work together to put our best foot first. YOU ARE our social network, so we ask for your help in #buildingcommunity online just as we do each week in our programs. Let's show our neighbors what we're all about. Let's inspire others to join our mission!

Take a peek on Facebook at some of our top posts from SHARE THE LOVE 2022.

And if you haven't already... LIKE, FOLLOW, INVITE, SHARE!



One of the best parts of being a PTS Mentor is watching the mentees grow. Many of the partnerships between mentors & the kids are years in the making, building trust and confidence in one another through their weekly interactions. Just ask mentor and Board member, Julie, seen here with two of her mentees. It's no surprise that these two young women are still all smiles. They love spending time with Julie every week at Path To Shine - Mosaic (Marietta)!

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
COMMUNICATIONS
CONSULTANT,**

Kyle Harshey



As I enter my 9th month with Path To Shine, I'm reminded how quickly time flies. I'm excited to do this work with PTS as we for reach new heights in terms of growth and new partnerships. It's an electric feeling to see some of the new buzz we're creating across Georgia (and beyond) as Marie meets with community organizers and we venture into new territory as an organization. With the recent filing for 501(c)(3) status, Path To Shine has become Path To Shine, Inc. Marie and the Board are diligently working behind the scenes to develop our strategic plan for the next phase of mentorship at PTS: the "who, what, why, when, & where" that will be instrumental to this transitional chapter that Marie mentions above. While the new strategic plan will take

some time to develop, what we can say now is GROWTH will be a big part of it.

In our recent meeting with the Affiliate Directors from our 16 (and counting) programs, I announced that we are transitioning to Google Drive - which we will affectionately refer to as "The Server" - for our cloud-based processes. PTS is sprinkled throughout the State while being headquartered in Smyrna...and I work remotely in Tennessee. "The Server" will provide us a centralized system from which we can effectively work together and stay connected. Especially as we work to create more PTS locations, I've placed a high priority on building out this infrastructure as quickly as possible so that we're ready to go when it comes time to onboard new programs. We've already begun to see the benefits of this shift with our latest roll-out of digital forms, which have been getting positive reviews from our mentors.

We are also working on a more robust Mentor Portal, which will be accessed through our website. The new Mentor Portal will remain a password-protected site that our mentors may access at the drop of a hat. The Portal will be home to any and all mentor-related resources which our programs need to best serve their mentees. Our goal is to provide mentors with a one-stop-shop for everything they use on a regular basis, right at their fingertips: permission forms and administrative documents, read aloud book videos from our YouTube channel, webinars, training registrations, supplemental curriculum documents, a place to

upload photos...the possibilities are endless! We can dream big and imagine a fully digital curriculum that can help facilitate mentoring sessions in real-time; who knows where the future will lead us? It's an exciting time to work with PTS on these new initiatives that I hope will help us evolve and grow as an organization.

To summarize, be on the lookout for future announcements on Google Drive (aka The Server), the Mentor Portal, and the Strategic Plan. There will also be news/announcements about the changes resulting from our 501(c)(3) filing, officially starting our new chapter as Path To Shine, Inc.

And as always, FOLLOW US on all of our social media pages and invite your friends to share in the amazing work happening at Path To Shine!

Stay Awesome!

Kyle Harshey
Communications Consultant
Call/Text: (205) 516-1601
Email: kyle@pathtoshine.org

P.S. PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me directly for any of your communications, social media, or PR questions for PTS. Whether it's something simple like accessing the newsletter, or something more complicated like designing a PTS announcement for your church newsletters, I'm always happy to assist!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

SATURDAY

6:00 PM

Smyrna Community Center

A DAY AT THE BRAVES

OCTOBER 02, 2022

SUNDAY

1:30 PM

Truist Park

Tickets for each event will be available soon!

We will notify you as soon as they are available for purchase.

Path To Shine depends on the generosity of supporters just like you to continue our mission of MENTORING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO FOSTER THEIR DREAMS. Your contribution today paves the way for more success stories tomorrow. Help us put the #SHINE in Path To Shine!

VISIT pathtoshine.org/donate & show your support.