

# THE PTS POST

## NEWSLETTER



## HELLO!

Life...  
Liberty...  
...and the **Pursuit of Happiness.**

Millions come together each year to speak truth into these famous words, celebrating in the collective hope that everyone may come to know this uniquely American ideal. Perhaps this phrase takes on a deeper meaning for those of us who understand the power of mentorship. A spark is ignited when a child finds their mentor - friendships form, partnerships evolve, confidence grows, and trajectories change. Each community we serve faces distinct obstacles and challenges that stand in the way of children reaching their greatest potential. At Path To Shine, we commit ourselves to



providing the type of mentorship that perseveres through adversity and transforms lives. As children journey to find their pathways to success, Path To Shine is there to walk with them, hand-in-hand, saying "we believe in you!" We go where our mentees lead us, providing inspiration and empowerment along the way to help each child reach for the stars.

So this 4th of July, let's remember that **MENTORSHIP GIVES YOU L.I.F.E.**

The **Liberty** to explore new subjects, learn new ideas, and crave knowledge.

The **Independence** to pursue a purposeful, fulfilling existence.

The **Freedom** to expand your mind and dream beyond what you think is possible.

The **Empowerment** to not let anything or anyone stand in your way.

Literacy, homework help, enrichment, advocacy, trust, and encouragement are just some of the ingredients that foster effective mentorship in our programs across Georgia. Keep reading and see how we are living into our mission of inspiring children to **DREAM BIG** through free meaningful mentorship. You might just find out how YOU can be part of this life-giving work.

---

## SUMMERTIME CELEBRATIONS

Children get so excited as Summer approaches. For the kids we mentor, that excitement is not just about time off school, or sleeping in late, or the extra sunshine in the evenings. PTS kids also look forward to enriching year-end celebrations at their programs. Our Mentors put a lot of heart into planning activities that will be new and memorable for the kids, and the payoff is a ton of hugs and smiles and words of encouragement. Not only do we honor everyone's success, we especially recognize the 5th graders who "graduate" from each program at these year-end gatherings. It's the perfect send-off, giving each 5th grader a sweet glimpse of how great it will feel to walk across the stage at



their high school graduations. The graduates receive a framed Certificate of Excellence and a gift card to buy books and school supplies. It's an extra little token of encouragement to tackle 6th grade with a confidence that can last through high school.

We are so **PROUD** of the seventeen 5th graders who graduated from Path To Shine this year! We have no doubt they will all go on to do some amazing things.

View the digital newsletter at [pathtoshine.org](http://pathtoshine.org) to watch a short slideshow of our year-end celebrations across Georgia

Go to the **FUND THE GAP** tab to see how we support PTS graduates beyond the 5th grade.

## MENTORING MATTERS!



Jessica Huerta (pictured left) graduated with Honors and Jessica De Los Santos Avila (pictured right) graduated Valedictorian! Joined by our founder, Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake, the group had a blast getting to share such a special milestone together.

This is proof that **mentoring matters**. A few short years spent with a child, lots of encouragement, and a commitment to staying in touch helped create a memory that these four will carry with them for a **lifetime**.

Congratulations to these two talented young women for believing in themselves and following their dreams!

In the near future, you will get to see and hear more from Ms. Christie and Jessica De Los Santos Avila. Be on the lookout for an exciting announcement **COMING SOON!**

---

## ARTISTS IN THE MAKING

The annual Path To Shine Art Contest is a well-beloved tradition among the volunteers and children of PTS. The Contest had to be postponed in recent years, but we were thrilled to reignite the tradition this year. Our 2023 theme was "How do I shine?"

We had dozens of children from our programs submit their best artwork to our esteemed panel of judges. The panel worked hard behind the scenes to identify the submissions that really stood out. Three top winners and nine honorable mentions were selected, and we could not be more impressed with the talent these young artists exemplify.

Soon we will have greeting card sets available that will highlight the 12 top winners of the 2023 Art Contest. You will receive a notification when they are ready so that you can make a

donation and get your hands on a set (or more)!

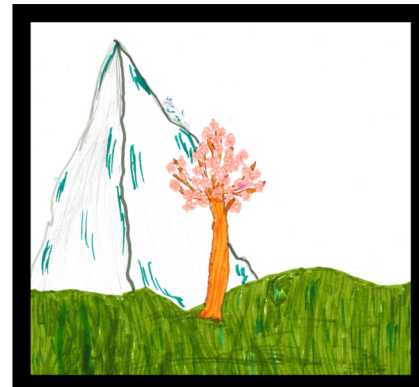
Our gratitude goes out to the children who shared their talent with us, and the numerous volunteers behind the scenes who made this event successful.



**1st Place**

**Artist | Jorge**

1st Grade | PTS-Norcross



**2nd Place**

**Artist | Sara**

5th Grade | PTS-Canton



**3rd Place**

**Artist | Kourtney**

4th Grade | PTS-Norton Park

# GROWTH WITH INTEGRITY

## *Our Strategic Plan*

Path To Shine, Inc. has approved a new Strategic Plan! For the next few years, our focus will remain on growth. Take a look and see how we plan to expand access to free meaningful mentorship across Georgia in ways that maintain the integrity of our program model. Our goal is to empower more children through mentorship, and we are committed to doing so in ways that prioritize the ever-evolving needs of the children we serve.

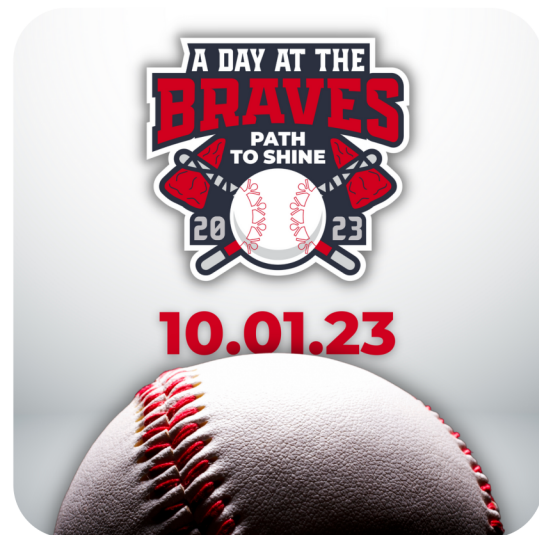


Go to [www.pathtoshine.org](http://www.pathtoshine.org) to VIEW/DOWNLOAD the Strategic Plan. You can also email us at [info@pathtoshine.org](mailto:info@pathtoshine.org) or give us a call at (404) 327-2554 for assistance.

# TICKETS ARE ON SALE

## *Get Yours Today!*

Tickets are officially on sale for our two biggest annual fundraisers! Click the links below and join us for two fun evenings that help support Path To Shine's mission.



**GO TO [PATHTOSHINE.ORG/BRAVES](http://PATHTOSHINE.ORG/BRAVES)**



**GO TO [PATHTOSHINE.ORG/BOIL](http://PATHTOSHINE.ORG/BOIL)**