

“Path To Shine(R) celebrated 10 years in 2020, after starting with just one program in Smyrna in August 2010 with the expectation that that was all there would be. But God had different plans and sent the Holy Spirit to stir up some "good trouble" so that by January 2020 we were in 17 locations working with 192 children. When COVID closed schools in Atlanta in the middle of March, the PTS Board approved grocery store gift cards for every family who needed it. I also decided we needed to close all of our programs at that time.

By July, I decided the safest option for the fall would be to proceed with PTS on-line while delivering monthly bags of goodies to the children's homes. Assuming all would be well by January 2021, we planned for 5 months of giveaways but by November we were gathering items for January through May 2021. Through these combined efforts PTS "HQ" had provided puzzles and playing cards, hidden pictures and crossword puzzles, notebook paper, composition notebooks, post-it notes, pencils and stickers, stress balls, Uno and Go Fish, Connect 4 and a Memory game, ear buds, and more. In total we gave away 314 grocery cards worth \$100 each, 22 Chromebooks, 11 wifi hot spot devices with a one year data plan, National Geographic Kids magazines, and workbooks. This was unusual and certainly not a part of the regular PTS model but I believe it was critical to support the children as best as we could, and each program's leader took on the task of delivering to the homes.

I am so thankful for Billie Abbott and her team, for the generous support of St. Paul's parishioners during our annual Share the Love campaign, and for the gifts from St. Paul's Outreach Committee. Combined they helped us to achieve more than we ever imagined we could in 2020 but that's just the way things go when God is in the midst. Thank you, St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

In faith,  
Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake”

“Path to Shine started 2020 off in full swing. However, once COVID restrictions were in place, we moved to phone calls, emails and texts until the end of the school year when we delivered educational bags for the summer and said “goodbye”. In the fall due to not being able to use the church building and COVID still on the upswing, we tried in various formats to conduct the program online. We were unable to get that working properly. We then reverted to phone calls, texts and email to keep in touch with our six students and their parents. Also, monthly bags were distributed. These bags contained educational and fun activities for the children. In addition, several ladies provided abundantly for our families with large bags of groceries. We are grateful to Mary Alice Webb, Mary Hinson, Jane Lucas and Carlene Massey for volunteering to provide the goodies for these monthly bags.

We hope sometime in 2021 that we will be able to resume Path to Shine in a person-to-person format. We would also like to recognize our Mentors for this year: Marilyn Armstrong, Peggy Puryear, and Mary Ellen Warren. These ladies have been tireless in

their efforts to connect with the children and their parents, even moving out of their comfort zones with technology. The support from St. Paul's members and staff is amazing. Thank you.

Billie Abbott  
*Affiliate Director*  
*Path to Shine, Downtown Macon*"