

## Directions

Dear Friends,

We ended 2014 on a very good financial note. Once again, the Lord has provided for us to cover our budget and for the second full year in a row, we have not taken any government money or taxes.

I'm sure there might be a day in the future when government money is right for expansion and does not interfere with our mission. But for now, thank you Citrus and Marion Counties for being so supportive in something I believe in with all of my heart.

In His Service,

*DuWayne Sipper*  
Executive Director - The Path



**Consider donating clothing, cars, appliances or furniture** to The Path Shelter Bargain Stores in Lecanto & Dunnellon. Your donations help hungry, homeless people in Citrus & Marion Counties.

**Call 352-746-9084 to arrange pickups for larger items**

**Estate Liquidation as a charitable deduction – call for a quote 352-527-6500 x4**



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## A THOUSAND BAD DECISIONS

John had made a thousand bad decisions before making some life-changing ones. Decision #1: He needed help and The Path was a place where he could find it. John shares with you--

I was an addict. Of course drugs played a majority of the part in why I ended up here at The Path. I was homeless. I lost my job. My car blew up and it was only a couple hundred bucks to fix it. But instead of fixing the car, I was worried about how I was going to get high. Same story you hear all the time. I was in the woods for almost two months.

One morning I woke up in those woods and it was pouring down rain. I wasn't much of a believer in God. I just started sobbing like a little kid. I was losing-my-breath kind of sobbing. Through my thousands of bad decisions, my family had cut off all ties with me-- communication, everything. My sister hadn't talked to me for about a year and I was mad at her for not letting me see my niece and my nephew. But looking back, if I had young children I wouldn't have wanted me around either. I cried out to God: Why are you doing this to me, why is this happening-- still trying to blame all my stuff on somebody else.

I begged God for some sort of sign. Anything to help me out of my situation. Not ten minutes later, my phone rang. It was my little sister who's a nurse and has helped some of the people at The Path. She started telling me about this place. That was divine intervention.

I had to call for about another two or three weeks because the beds were full. Ready to give up for good, I left one last message begging for help. Not five minutes went by and I got my answer: finally there was a bed for me!

I was petrified because this was my first time ever reaching out for help. I'm 47 in February and the drugs have been an ongoing process for me for 20 years. Even though I cried out for help, I was thinking too much instead of turning myself over to God. It took me a good 60 days before I finally surrendered to Jesus Christ and let Him start dealing with my problems.

This change in my attitude has truly transformed the person I am. Just that one simple change in opening my heart up to God... *(continued on page 2)*



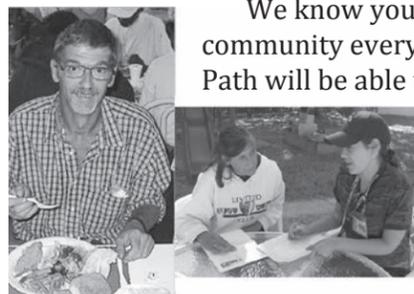
John is grateful for simple things like food and clothing. For him, it was time to take responsibility for his life. Thank you for giving John a new life in Christ.

*I begged God for some sort of sign. Anything to help me out of my situation. Not ten minutes later, my phone rang.*

## We Need You

The needs of homeless and hungry people continue throughout the year. And our doors are always open. Our tables always have food on them. Even during the summer when so many leave the area for several months. Now you can join a small group of dedicated people who share your concern for the hungry and homeless in our community.

Our new monthly giving program-- **THE 99 AND ONE GIVING CLUB**-- offers you a simple convenient way to continue your support without having to write a check every month.



**99 AND ONE CLUB**

We know you understand that there are hurting, hungry, homeless people in our community every single day. Through **THE 99 AND ONE GIVING CLUB** you can ensure The Path will be able to help them in their time of need, regardless of the season! No matter what amount-- if given monthly over a period of time-- makes a huge impact on the lives of men, women and children who seek our help.

**Call Kathryn Sipper at 352-527-6500 ext. 5 to find out more and become a monthly partner today**



**Client Services Office**  
21 S Melbourne St.  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465  
352-527-6500

Member  
**ASSOCIATION OF GOSPEL  
RESCUE MISSIONS**  
www.agrm.org



NT Design: New Eden Graphics 352.860.2146

**Path of Citrus County**  
PO Box 3024, Inverness, FL 34451

**Lecanto Bargain Store**  
1729 W. Gulf to Lake Highway  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
Mon - Fri 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sat 9 AM - 4 PM

**Path of Marion County**  
PO Box 77-1739, Ocala, FL 34477

**Dunnellon Bargain Store**  
20565 W. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Dunnellon, FL 34431  
Wed - Fri 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sat 9 AM - 3 PM

**352-527-6500 • www.PathOfCitrus.org • www.PathOfMarion.org**

**John's story...continued**

To all of you who've helped The Path in some way: Thank you and please keep up the good work! The clothing donations alone mean a great deal to us. Guys come in here and it's winter time now and they don't have a winter coat. They don't have warm socks. They show up in



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tank tops and it's 35 degrees outside. When I arrived, I came with two pairs of pants and three shirts. Now I have almost a full wardrobe of clothes! And we have an eye doctor in the community who helps. I got my eyes checked and I'm waiting on my new pair of glasses. To the people who are genuine about turning their lives around, the canned food and clothing and stuff like that is a major morale boost. Even if you only touch one person, it's worth it. It meant something to me.

I want to thank you for giving me another shot at life. Everyday I'm learning something new to be a better person and get closer to God. That's what I'm striving for. I have to reflect on me. It can't be everybody else...

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

**John 3:16 NIV**



**When you have nothing, a meal means everything!**

**Change lives today by returning your gift in the envelope provided**

For about the cost of a cup of coffee, you can provide her with a warm meal. Change lives by sponsoring some of the many meals The Path will serve to hungry, hurting men and women this year.

And, once again **you can increase the impact of your giving to sponsor meals through the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Challenge:** for every dollar you give to The Path from March through April, The Feinstein challenge will add to that amount to provide The Path with even more to feed hungry souls. Your gift is multiplied to feed and save lives!

However many meals you help to provide, each one can be the start of a life free from the effects of poverty, homelessness, and addiction... a life secure in the knowledge of God's unconditional love and care.

**Pray for those desperate folks we see at The Path every day.  
A meal can change a life.**

**Visit The Path Online at  
[www.PathOfCitrus.org](http://www.PathOfCitrus.org)**

**Path Spotlight**

Visit our online photo gallery! Highlights include New Life program certificate recipients & other Path rescue mission stars.



**PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE**

The Path needs people from the community—people like you—to reach out to the hungry and homeless who call The Path "home" each night. As you look at these photos, try to put yourself in the picture...



*Are you a people person? Join our newsletter stuffing groups or sort items at our bargain stores. Like to teach and mentor others? Help teach our Computer Basics and other life skills classes.*



**PATH NEEDS LIST**

- Toilet Paper ~ Bleach ~ Dish Soap
- Pine Sol ~ Shampoo ~ Razors
- Zip Lock bags (gal. & sandwich sz)
- Laundry Detergent
- Garbage bags (13 gal)

*How can I make a difference and give back to my community? Help "supply our needs" by collecting some of the many items we need to keep the houses clean and running smoothly as well as our men and women at their best!*



*Are you asking yourself how can I help someone? Bring hope by leading a Christian 12-step recovery program.*

**ONLY 2 hours**  
a month x 12 months = 24 hours a year

**ONE DAY in 2015**  
spent changing lives

**Two hours a month changes lives.**

**Discover how YOU can make a difference as a Path Volunteer!**

**Call 352-527-6500 x9**

**CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

- **Handyman/maintenance-** Wed or Sat for facilities in Beverly Hills.
- **Jewelry Sorters-** Sort in the comfort of your home! Pick up/drop off at our Lecanto or Dunnellon bargain stores each week.
- **Handbag & Shoe Sorters-** Sort in the comfort of your home! Pick up/drop off each week at our Dunnellon store.

**~Thank you to All Our Christmas Angels ~**

Anonymous individuals, groups and families who shared God's love through giving gifts to men and women at The Path, and their children. One shared it this way: "You made my Christmas very special this year. I've had very sad Christmases the past few years. Thank you for bringing such joy to my heart when it was needed most."