

August 28, 2013
For immediate release
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Seeds of Hope are Planted Every Day at The Path

What do you see when you look at a seed?

At first glance, it doesn't seem very impressive. Pretty small and insignificant. That is until time and proper care help it grow and mature. Then it becomes something amazing, full of healthy potential and energy.

At The Path of Citrus County, a faith-based rescue mission, we look deeper beyond surface issues. Without judgment, we recognize potential in men and women who need time and special guidance. In the men, women and children who seek food and shelter within our walls, we see the possibility of change and growth. Through our life transformation programs, we watch as desperate lives transform into lives of renewed hope.



Amazing things can arise from small and seemingly hopeless, insignificant beginnings.

Life-changes at The Path often begin with small gestures – a warm meal, a safe place to sleep, a hug, a friendly voice asking, “How can I ease your pain?” It is wonderful to see how planting these tiny “seeds of hope” bears fruit for our neighbors who are seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Since opening our doors in 2001, THE PATH has been responding to the needs of men, women and children who are without a home by expanding its facilities and developing life-transforming programs. Over 1,000 individuals have been served through The Path.



In addition to offering safe shelter, food and clothing, THE PATH offers individualized case management to build skills needed to overcome addiction, develop a productive work ethic and transform lives so that, if willing, individuals can escape addiction and poverty. Individuals are reinforced with knowledge and tools to achieve self-sufficiency and for many, a reunited and strengthened family. For services not available onsite, THE PATH engages a wide network of churches and community resources that address physical, spiritual, relational and emotional needs.

For one woman, the "seed of hope" came by way of discovering her abilities and setting a goal through a special class at The Path. Unable to work for quite some time due to illness a few years ago, she had lost her job at a call center. By the time she was well enough to work again, her employer had relocated the call center. Eventually, she lost her home and lived in a motel until the money ran out. She faced one closed door after another, including

a close family member who turned her away. Eventually, at The Path, she found hope. With time to heal, life-skills classes and case management, this woman has confidence for her future, even at age 60.



For another, the "seed of hope" came through skills training at The Path's woodshop. Life transformation became clear as he worked to restore a beautiful, but damaged headboard of Indonesian wood. "As I worked on it, the detailed beauty of the wood began to reappear. I was filling in the cracks and crevices, polishing until the wood was smooth and shining. I realized one day that is how Jesus is restoring ME! It's becoming real to me. The Path is helping me to become a new man."

Each area of focus is designed to transform the "whole person." The Case Management program is designed to help people regain self-sufficiency through accountability, consistent evaluation and facilitated transitions. Case managers set goals specific to the client's background, education, abilities, and help them best utilize available services. THE PATH's bargain stores and 15-acre farm provide supervised work programs and a means to fulfill court-ordered community service hours. There is no established time limit for length of stay as long as a client is progressing and THE PATH's programs meet their goals and needs. The longer an individual stays with The Path, the greater the likelihood they won't return to a self-destructive lifestyle.

Because of community support, The Path provided nearly 7,000 bed nights and over 20,000 hot meals last year. The Path's programs change the lives of people who never thought recovery was possible.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE PATH REACH MORE WITH SEEDS OF HOPE:

1. Donate gently-used furniture, appliances and other household items to The Path Shelter Bargain Store. Call 352-746-9084 for more information or to arrange a pickup! The Path Shelter Bargain stores are located at 1729 W Gulf to Lake Highway in Lecanto and 20565 W Pennsylvania Ave in Dunnellon. Donations and purchases support the needs and programs for the men and women at The Path's rescue mission.
2. Donate items needed at The Path's campus in Beverly Hills: canned goods, household cleaning items, appliances (stoves & refrigerators especially needed), used bicycles-- Call 352-527-6500 x9 for more information.
3. Arrange for DuWayne or Kathryn Sipper to speak to your group or organization to learn more about The Path's service to the community and ways your group can become involved. Or bring your group to The Path by arranging for a tour of The Path's campus or 15- acre farm, growing pesticides-free vegetables nearly year-round.
4. Contact Kathryn Sipper about attending The Path's annual Harvest Hope fundraiser banquet on October 18 to hear from program graduates and help support The Path's vision. Table and other sponsorships available, or find out about volunteering for this event.

To learn more about The Path, call 352-527-6500, ext 5 with questions or visit www.pathofcitrus.org. Sign up online for The Path's newsletter, *Path News*, issued 6 times per year. The Path is a local 501-c-3 in operation in Citrus County since 2001 as a rescue mission for homeless men, women and their children.

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