



God gave Karen a smooth landing at The Path

After two years in jail, Karen had come to understand that God doesn't always promise a calm passage through life, but with trust, He'll provide a smooth landing. So when Karen's probation officer recommended she come to The Path upon her release, she knew it would be the best thing for her.

"When I got to The Path I didn't know much about God," Karen admits. "My counselor showed me that praying and talking to God helps." Soon, Karen received Christ and was baptized. "I knew that was what God wanted, and I wanted to serve Him."

While at The Path, Karen kept in contact with the people she called her "family." They were so pleased with her progress that they asked her to come back and live with them again. Karen became a member of a local church and faithfully attends every Sunday. She is also acting as a caregiver.

"This is a huge change from where I was two years ago," Karen says. "Maybe I've gone through so many trials so I would end up at The Path, where I came to know God as a loving Father and not just a judge. I only wish that I would have known how much joy I would have in my life had I chosen this path earlier."

And we know that in all things
God works for the good of
those who love him, who have been
called according to his purpose.

—ROMANS 8:28

Thank you, Christmas Angels!

The holidays can be lonely for men and women at The Path's rescue mission. But thanks to our Path Christmas Angels, each person and their children received beautifully wrapped gifts chosen from their very own wish lists.

A special thanks also to **Altrusa International of Citrus County** and **Suncoast Dermatology-Ocala** for donating beautifully decorated Christmas trees to share the love of Christmas.



The 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 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

Dunnellon Bargain Store
20565 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Dunnellon, FL 34431
Wed.-Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

Member
Association of
Gospel Rescue Missions
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THE PATH NEWS

A Publication of The Path Rescue Mission • Serving the Homeless & Hungry in Citrus & Marion Counties



Out of the woods and into the light of God's love

"God bless this place!"

"Living one day in the woods is long enough," Bob says. But he spent months sleeping in a tent and foraging for food wherever he could find it. Worse, he was suffering from the effects of two strokes. Eventually, Bob connected with members of a nearby church who referred him to The Path's rescue mission. That's when Bob's life took a dramatic turn for the better.

Bob's memory is sketchy as a result of his strokes, but he clearly recalls the love and warmth that waited for him at The Path. "They were very nice. They got me clothes, set me up with a bed. I knew that they had good intentions here. I could feel it in the people."

PLEASE KEEP READING MORE ABOUT BOB INSIDE ➔

DIRECTIONS

Gardens of Grace



DuWayne Sipper, *Executive Director*

Dear Friend,

In December's *The Path News*, Tyler, a client originally from Minnesota, marveled at being able to grow vegetables at The Path's Farm year-round. But something much greater takes place every day as clients of The Path enjoy new growth in their spiritual and emotional lives.

Sometimes that growth seems to happen overnight. More often, it unfolds gradually as hurting men and women tentatively open their hearts to God's grace. Either way, the fruits of that grace are hope and new life in Christ.

In this issue, you'll see how you helped lead Bob out of the woods and into a stronger friendship with the Lord... and introduced Karen to the joy of knowing God as her loving Father. Because you care, cold hearts are warmed by His love and damaged lives are renewed by His grace, no matter the season.

Thank you for supporting The Path. As this year's seasons progress, I pray that God's grace will grow in your life.

In His Service,

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

—2 PETER 3:18

The Path Farm Co-op Nourishes Bodies and Souls

Fifteen acres of fertile farmland provide nutritious vegetables, physical exercise and a work program for the men and women at The Path. As a member of The Path's Farm Co-op, you can benefit as well, with bumper crops of fresh, pesticide-free vegetables for your table this season.

Enjoy delicious cucumbers, squash, peppers, cherry tomatoes, eggplant and more. At the same time, you are helping men and women at The Path, who grow and harvest the food, as well as prepare the weekly co-op distribution to members.

A variety of membership options are available. For a farm tour, more information or to sign up, call (352) 527-6500 x8.

Your participation in The Path Farm Co-op plants seeds of hope to feed the hungry and build a healthier community.

Hope Begins with a Meal



When a hungry, hurting person sits down for

a hot meal at The Path, it can be a real turning point in their life. As the Easter season nears, please consider a gift to sponsor meals at The Path.



Into the light of God's love...

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Once he settled in, Bob experienced Christ's love in a very personal way. "I've always loved the Lord," Bob says. "I had a Bible in my tent with me but my belief in the Lord has increased greatly since I've been here. I turned my life over to Him."

Today, thanks to friends like you, Bob is picking up the pieces of his life and putting them together in an orderly and positive way. Men's Administrator Dave Hassie helped Bob reconnect with his brother

And hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been
poured out into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

—ROMANS 5:5

and signed him up for disability. With regular payments now coming to him, Bob is looking into several small assisted living facilities. In the meantime, he helps out by sweeping, washing dishes and transplanting seedlings for The Path's Farm.

"God bless this place," Bob says. "I'm sure glad I got to The Path because without their help, I don't know where I'd be."



**Volunteer
Appreciation
Dinner
April 2017**

April is **National Volunteer Appreciation Month**. If you're an active or former volunteer at The Path, watch for your invitation to our April 2017 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We look forward to seeing you!

It's a New Year for Giving

And it's a great time to give in a new way

➤ **Become a monthly partner in our 99 AND ONE CLUB** with easy electronic giving or reminder coupons for mailing. Call Kathryn Sipper at (352) 527-6500 x5 to enroll.

➤ **Donate furniture, clothing and other items to The Path Shelter Thrift Store.** Your donations help those working in our Thrift Store to build experience that prepares them for outside employment. Also, proceeds from the sales of your items help to support recovery programs at The Path.



➤ **Volunteer at The Path.** We currently have need for:

- Co-leader for women's Christian 12 Step classes
- Co-leader for the Eating Healthy class
- Sorters for The Path's thrift stores
- Volunteers for The Path's monthly grocery collections

➤ **Collect needed items.**

- Canned meats, soups
- Bleach and Pine-Sol cleaner
- 13-gal. outdoor trash bags
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Ziploc Bags (gallon & sandwich size)
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Paper Towels



Drop items off at our office located at 21 S. Melbourne St. in Beverly Hills or call (352) 527-6500 x9 to arrange a pickup.