



# THE PATH NEWS

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



A proud moment for The Path family as Executive Director DuWayne Sipper walks Ashley down the aisle!

## You helped to complete Ashley's family

“Great things have happened!”

Ashley will never forget the date she moved out of The Path's rescue mission because it was also her wedding day! Most importantly, it marked her transformation into the wife, mother and woman God created her to be.

Before a virtual stranger brought Ashley and her two boys to The Path, she had drifted from one temporary shelter to another. “I felt like I was nothing. I felt hopeless. I felt like I let my family down.”

If Ashley felt that she had let her family down, The Path helped her to make it up to them. “I've learned a lot while staying at The Path,” she says. In addition to parenting,

PLEASE KEEP READING MORE ABOUT ASHLEY INSIDE ➔

# DIRECTIONS

## Surprised by Hope



**DuWayne Sipper, Executive Director**

Dear Friend,

Hope can be found in unlikely places... like an empty tomb. With His resurrection, Christ won a victory over death that promised the hope of eternal life for everyone who believes in Him.

This Easter season, our homeless neighbors will find hope and a hot meal when they come to The Path. Many are often surprised when they experience hope... found in the compassion of our staff and the comfort of the Gospel.

Ashley and her little boys had nothing when they came to The Path. Grateful for plenty of healthy food to eat and a safe place to sleep, they soon discovered a whole new life, thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

There's no better time than Easter to offer hope to someone in despair. Please consider a gift today to sponsor meals and help lead our hurting brothers and sisters to positive, productive new lives in Christ.

I wish you and all your loved ones a blessed Easter and pray that you'll be surprised by God's goodness through the rest of this year!

In His Service,

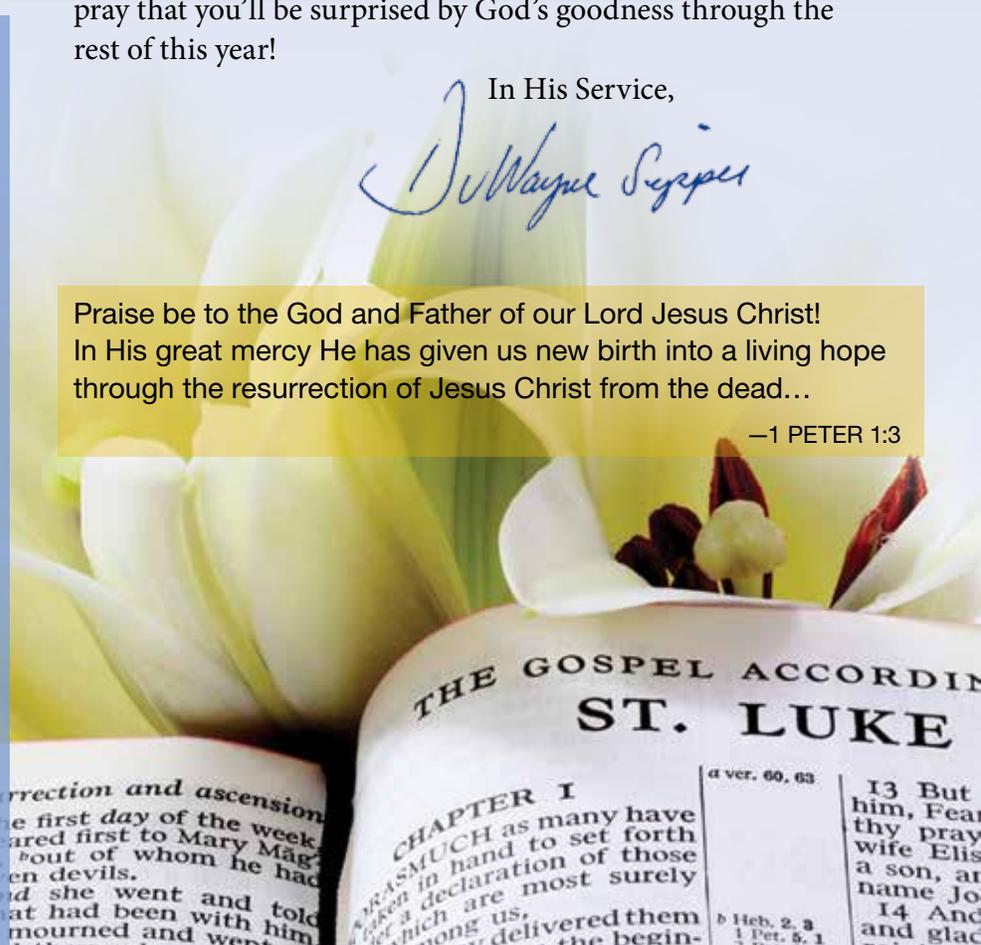
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

—1 PETER 1:3

## The Path to Restoration: God, Family and Work

Easter is the season for renewal, but lives are restored every day of the year through The Path's New Life Program. The way to restoration is surprisingly simple. Men and women at The Path are encouraged to build a strong work ethic through daily chores and work assignments at The Path's bargain stores and farm. Men and women in our program enjoy Christian fellowship, participate in discipleship and develop practical skills for living clean, sober, successful lives. By God's grace, they find themselves reconciled with family, society and most importantly, with Jesus Christ.

**Thank you for your gifts and prayers that help to heal so many hurting people at The Path.**



# More Ways to Give this Spring

## 99 AND ONE CLUB

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.

**Consider The Path in your Estate Planning.** For more information, call DuWayne Sipper at (352) 527-6500 x4.



**Time for spring cleaning... and giving.** Your donations of gently used clothing and household items to the Path Shelter Thrift Stores help to provide meals, shelter, clothing and programs for our homeless neighbors. Call (352) 746-9084 for pickups.

### Collect needed items.

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



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.

## “Great things have happened!”

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employment and budgeting classes, Ashley attended weekly Bible studies. “I enjoyed learning new things about Jesus.” Her young sons also benefitted. “My five-year-old was just scrambling. As time progressed, he settled in and calmed down. He started kindergarten back in August. And my three-year-old is talking so much better.”

During her stay, Ashley reconnected with the father of her children and the couple made plans to marry. In the absence of Ashley’s biological family, her family at The Path, including case manager Diane Wilbur, stepped in to make sure she had the wedding she had always dreamed of.

The wedding took place at Hernando Church of the Nazarene, with Pastor Randy Hodges officiating. Ashley was radiant in the gown, veil and shoes provided by Lynda Schnirl, our Dunnellon Bargain Store manager, who also photographed the event. The bride was attended by her roommate at The Path and a volunteer who worked with her at our thrift store. Executive Director DuWayne Sipper proudly walked Ashley down the aisle as she carried a bouquet made by his wife, Kathryn.



A new command I give you:  
Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you  
must love one another.

—JOHN 13:34

Today Ashley, her new husband and their sons are in a home of their own. “I surrendered my life to Jesus and great things have happened with my family.” God very likely has even greater healing, restoration and reconciliation in store for Ashley’s family.

Without your support for The Path, Ashley says she would still be lost and homeless. “Thank you for your donations and for helping us have a roof over our heads, food and everything we need. I’m very grateful for everything that everyone has done for us at The Path.”

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, April 21

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. If you’re an active or former volunteer at The Path, celebrate with us on April 21, 6:00–7:30 p.m. at Hernando Church of the Nazarene.





# Making Miracles for Families

“Everyone has a family member or knows of someone who has struggled with the issues our clients do.” Diane, our Women’s Case Manager, knows this better than many people, as her own son was helped by The Path five years ago. Today, he’s a husband, the father of three sons, and a youth group minister.

Diane witnesses the same transformation in the lives of the women she works with at The Path. Her greatest and most rewarding challenge is working with mothers, including Ashley in this issue’s cover story.

Most mothers at The Path have limited parenting skills, poor employment prospects and a lack of stability in their lives, putting their children at a serious disadvantage. All women at The Path participate in Bible study and a biblical 12-step program, counseling sessions, and classes in nutrition, parenting,

**...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**

—JOSHUA 24:15

employment and budgeting. Diane then works with them one on one in the thrift shop for work therapy to develop their skills.

The key to lasting stability, according to Diane, is a strong spiritual foundation within the family unit. She cites Ashley and her new husband Joshua, who waited to set up their home until they married. “They could have moved into their own place three months ago. He had the finances and everything. They wanted to do it right and to me these days, that is a miracle.”



## God’s Work... Through You!

Congratulations to Kelli on getting her driver’s license, another accomplishment on her path to independence! “I’m so excited! This will give me a way to work and support my kids,” says Kelli. Thank you for helping Kelli and other clients of The Path set and achieve their goals.

**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

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