



THE PATH NEWS

A Publication of The Path of Citrus County

www.pathofcitrus.org

Issue 1 • Volume 1

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than they have been to me!

I have gotten to go through Certified Nurses Assistant (C.N.A.) School, which was an amazing opportunity I couldn't have gotten anywhere else.

Now I know that God is with me. He has lifted me up and blessed me in ways I couldn't imagine!

I came here to The Path with a broken heart, and Pastor Dan and Mrs. Debbie had the glue. I am walking with God and with Him, I am complete!



“Mrs. Debbie and Pastor Dan are angels sent straight from heaven to help heal. They are helping to lead me on a healthy Christian path.”

For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you!
Luke 17:21

Need a Guest Speaker for Your Group or Special Event?

Contact DuWayne Sipper, Executive Director at (352) 527-6500 to learn more about The Path and the ministry of rescue.

25% OFF COUPON

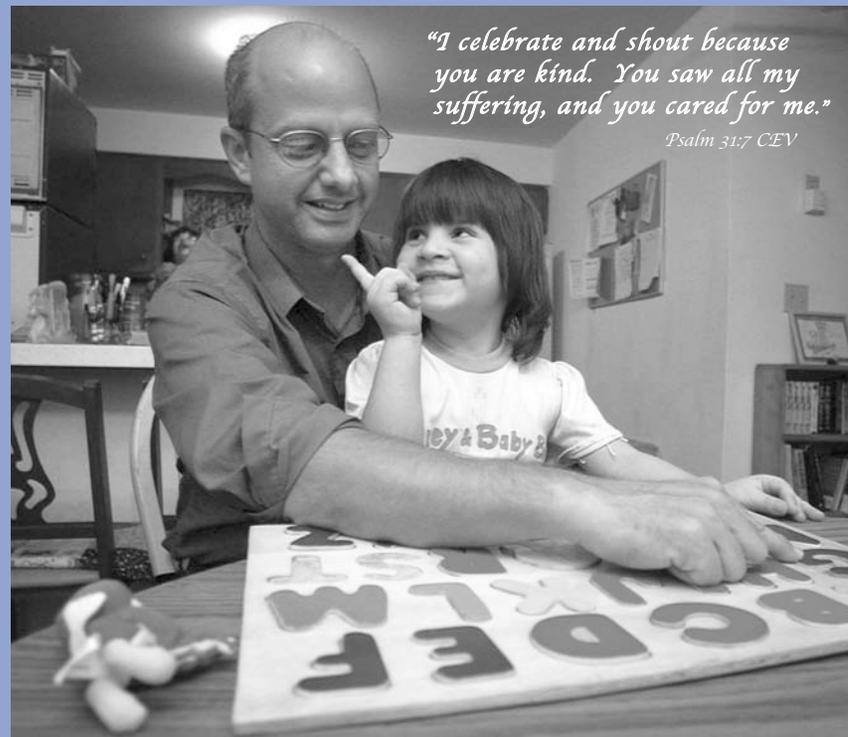
ON ANY DONATED ITEM IN THE BARGAIN STORE [except new furniture or new items]
VALID UNTIL July 31, 2007

1729 W Gulf to Lake Hwy.
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Don't forget us in your will, trust or estate planning.

Did you know . . .

Citrus County does not have a shelter that can house a married couple with children at this time? They have several choices, look for scarce money to stay in motels, split up if there is shelter space in dual locations or leave the county.



“I celebrate and shout because you are kind. You saw all my suffering, and you cared for me.”

Psalm 34:7 CEV

Inside: Stories of Hope you made possible!

Your generosity provides food, shelter and care for the needy in Citrus County . . .



DuWayne Sipper
Executive Director

From the desk of . . .

“Our mission is to provide a Christian living environment that allows true rehabilitation. To allow long term stays for life changing, biblical teachings to take effect. To encourage the work ethic, for those without a home in Citrus County.”

Dear Friends of the Path,

It's been several years now that we have published the newsletter ourselves and today you are looking at a newsletter in which the Path got a lot of help. With the publishing costs being so low, we are sending this to you at about the same costs that the original letter cost us years ago. Let us know what you think!

We thank Mayor Ron Kitchen of Crystal River for supporting the Path through the "Run with the Mayor" inaugural race. The Path hopes that it is just the beginning for many years to come. Please check out the picture on page 6 from the newsletter.

The Path farm and both leech fields at the shelter have struggled this year. We still have high hopes of finding someone to help us tend our ten acres. Recently ideas such as growing flowers or a crop that produces ethanol gas have been discussed along with the food we grow for the shelter.

Please keep us in your prayers about the many decisions we make that affect lives everyday.

And call me or drop in for a visit to see what's going on at The Path anytime!

God bless you and keep you,

DuWayne Sipper
Executive Director
The Path of Citrus County

Phone: (352) 527-6500
Fax: (352) 746-6746



The Vision



“To bring the good news and teachings of Jesus Christ to those in need by means of example according to Matthew 25:35 - “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, for I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Staff Corner

“Although the work of people can look difficult and seem disappointing if you are looking for perfection, we have had many success stories here that you may not recognize. When you are dealing with people who are addicted or live in fear because they cannot financially take care of their children on their own, they have success stories that are different from others.

To be clean and sober for 30 days is a dramatic statement for some of our clients. To get your first full time job when you have been a wife and mother for 10 years. To get your first driver's license. To go to a big church and fit in where you thought you would never set foot. To have someone in that church watch your precious children while you learn more about the incredible story of Jesus who died for all or our mistakes.

Today we count the blessings of doing the work of our Father and counting success in His terms and a most different way!” -- Path Staff Member



Volunteer Corner



Diane and Brooklyn - mom and baby, recent Path graduates

“Several months ago, one of our clients gave birth to a 6 lb. 10 1/4 oz. baby. As I looked down at this child I wondered, what if the Path was not here? Where would this little baby be? On the street, in a motel or maybe even taken away from the mother because she had nowhere to go. She's a good Mom and it was not her fault that she ended up here. But life sometimes has different plans for us and circumstances happen. We do not plan to be homeless, we just find ourselves there.

Because of people like you this mother will have another start at life. She will get the opportunity to be a Mom and to be able to provide a new home and security for her child. She was not looking for a hand out, just a hand up and YOU gave her that opportunity. She thanks you . . .” -- Path Volunteer

What's New?



On the Farm . . .

One of our local churches loaned 10 acres for crop farming to provide food for the shelter and surrounding community.

This is our second summer planting, and we are pleased to report we have crops growing abundantly with the recent rains. We have planted cucumbers, pole beans, squash and melons.

Is there an avid farmer out there to help us with watering and fertilizing? We will consider a paid position or trade!

Please keep the crops in your prayers.

Your Best Travel Source – The Path!



Path supporters now have an unusual way to have fun and at the same time benefit The Path. Visit our new travel link on The Path's homepage at www.pathofcitrus.org!

Make your travel plans and benefit The Path . . . just by clicking on the icon link to our Your Travel Business website (www.ytbtravel.com/thepath) to make your hotel, cruise, plane, car rental and other travel and vacation reservations the same way you would use other travel websites like Orbitz or Expedia. And the prices and booking availability are competitive.

Our YTB website also includes a variety of vacation ideas and great getaways, plus numerous travel resources such as Airport Delays, World Time Zones and Traveler's Health. You might even find a great weekend escape to whisk your loved ones off to or set up your golf tee time before arriving at the hotel!

The travel commissions for booking through our YTB link will go directly to The Path. Please give it a try and let us know what you think.

Special Thanks . . .

GREAT FUN AT THE 5K RUN IN CRYSTAL RIVER

On April 21, 2007, Crystal River's Mayor Ron Kitchen teamed up with the Citrus Road Runners, a local non-profit runners club operating in Citrus County, and The Path of Citrus County to host a 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk / Fun Run at Hunter Springs Park in Crystal River. The course took runners from Hunter Springs Park out to NE 2nd Avenue, then Kings Bay Drive and back to the park.



Mayor Kitchen invited all of Citrus County to join in this family event that benefited the mission. Many are not aware that today in Citrus County, three out of four requests for assistance from the homeless are denied because of a lack of space, and many of them include children. With the sponsor support we received, we can help those that are truly in need even more!



Mayor Kitchen with The Path director

The 5K Run with the Mayor raised community awareness and addressed the demanding needs here in our county. Continued support from our community has made a significant impact in The Path's efforts to transform the lives of our Citrus County homeless.

We hope to see you again next year!!!



Special thanks to our sponsors:

“And He shall direct your path.” Proverbs 3:6

Testimonies . . .

Amanda's Story - Path client for one month:

I had a lot of horrible things happen in my life, in such a short amount of time. I was walking around this world lost and confused. Didn't know who I was inside anymore...no self-esteem or respect.

Then a month ago, I came to The Path where I met Pastor Dan and Mrs. Debbie, the shelter administrators. I was searching for answers and something to fill the holes in my heart and in my life.

Because of the Path, I feel complete again. I found out I wasn't missing my family or myself. I was missing and searching for God.

Being here (at The Path) has helped me find God again. A few weeks ago, I gave my life to God and said, "Here God, you run my life. I don't know what I am doing." Within my first two weeks of doing that, (also first couple of weeks at The Path), I got my High School diploma and job in the same day.

Ever since then, my faith in God has been stronger and more real to me now, than it ever has been before. God continues to bless me over and over again. I now have the strength to stand on my own again. But this time, I have God on my side. With God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!

Jeannette's Story - Path client for four months:

I came to The Path a few months ago. My home had been broken up for a while and I needed God in my life more than ever. When Mrs. Debbie (the shelter administrator for women) asked me if I wanted to stay, she put her hand on my shoulder. It was as if she released me of my heartache and fears. I found that The Path was a Christian shelter. I knew that this was where God wanted me to be.

We may not exactly have "our own" place yet, but this is "my family" and this is "my home" for now. Mrs. Debbie and Pastor Dan are angels sent straight from heaven to help heal. They are helping to lead me on a healthy Christian "path."

Even though my parents are not in my life, I know I couldn't ask for a better family

“Being here (at The Path) has helped me find God again.”



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At The Path . . .

The Path "Yard Sale"

The Path of Citrus County holds a Yard Sale every other Saturday, open to the public. The Yard Sale not only allows people in our community the opportunity to select or buy affordable items such as clothing, furniture and other gently used items, but it helps raise funds for the Rescue Mission.

Clients of the mission and community service workers help out by arranging the items and clothing (which we give away for free!), they also load the larger goods into the shopper's cars – and staff members pass the donation jar around.



Yard sales are held at The Path's bargain store to bring in customers and introduce them to what's available like new or gently used furniture and household accessories. In addition, this is a great opportunity to tell everyone about The Path Rescue Mission and what is being accomplished within.

It's a great community service / community awareness event and very popular. *The mission doesn't even have to advertise anymore!*



Danny and Tony enjoying their work??!!

Volunteers help make The Path what it is – a place to start life over again . . . with God by their side.

SUMMER WISH LIST

If you would like to help The Path with the following needs, drop them by the shelter at 27 Melbourne or give us a call at (352) 527-6500.

- Volunteers Drivers
- 2 hrs a week
- People to make phone calls
- Store Cashiers
- Trailers we can pull behind the trucks (old or new)
- Building supplies for small projects
- Drywall, paint, wood
- Baby items & clothing
- Boxes of feminine Items
- Shoes - all sizes, gently used
- Garbage bags
- Toilet paper - urgent
- Liquid laundry soap
- Dish soap
- Towels