



THE PATH NEWS

A Publication of The Path of Citrus County

www.pathofcitrus.org

Issue 2 • Volume 1

UPCOMING EVENTS [SAVE THIS DATE]

Harvest: Hope

You and your guests are cordially invited to the
5th Annual Path Banquet
featuring guest speaker and author *Elsie Detweiler*

Saturday, November 10, 2007
6:15 PM– 8:30 PM

At The Citrus Springs Community Center
1570 N. Citrus Springs Blvd., Citrus Springs
(near the schools, off Elkcam Blvd., or HWY 41)

Buffet Dinner Semi-formal attire

RSVP Kathryn Sipper 522-0514

This is an event you won't want to miss! Every year we gather together at our biggest fundraiser to share God's goodness while enjoying excellent food, wonderful music and fantastic speakers. Our featured guest speaker this year is *Elsie Moses Detweiler*, a pioneer in Rescue Mission ministry and the rehabilitation of the homeless plus an inspirational author.

Elsie and her first husband pioneered alcohol rehabilitation in the days before treatment centers and personally developed two successful programs still in operation today. Tragically widowed at a young age, Elsie soldiered on with a series of remarkable ministries in the home mission field. She was the director of the first women's Mission in the United States and directed Village Atlanta for homeless women with children.

This year's banquet also features video presentations and live testimonies from volunteers and former Path clients. "Common Ground," from Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church in Lecanto, will provide inspirational Christian music throughout the evening for your enjoyment. The high school praise dance team "LINK," from Gulf to Lake Church of Crystal River will perform to the stirring song "Only Hope."

To reserve a seat or, if you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Sipper at 352-522-0514 or by email at sipperk@bellsouth.net.



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“Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin.
God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes
all the dirt off of you.

He opens you up, touches you deep inside
and scoops out all the yucky stuff –
including the seeds of doubt,
hate, greed, etc.

Then He carves you a new smiling face
and puts His light inside you to shine
for all the world to see.”

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A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND THANKS

THE LIFE-CHANGING STORY OF KAYLA AND THE MISSION

Hi, I'm Kayla, and this is my eight-month old son Michael III. When I came to Citrus County, I had no money, no place to sleep. I was scared, alone and had nowhere to turn. I called the police for help and they referred me to The Path.

The Path has been such a blessing to my son and me. I realized quickly I needed to grow up. At first, I wasn't sure I could handle the structure. In two weeks' time, I felt blessed to be there. Finding God, and the classes I attended at The Path helped me immensely . . . I've learned to pray for guidance, be an independent thinker. I feel better about myself and have hope now for a future for my family. I will be able to take better care of my baby and myself.

Because of the counseling at The Path, and the guidance of Miss Linda and Miss Joann, I know I will need a college degree and training to become a registered nurse. This realization helped me decide the best way to reach my goal was to join the military service. The decision was a hard one. I prayed a lot, discussed every angle, and successfully enlisted in the United States Army. I'll be deployed on September 25. My son, Michael, will stay with his father, my husband, and they will join me after boot camp.

If it were not for The Path helping me find God and giving me the guidance

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding.."

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

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- ▶ Dinner & Fellowship
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- ▶ Director's corner
- ▶ Upcoming Events and more . . .

KAYLA'S STORY

[Continued from Cover]

they did, I would not be as goal-oriented – or as content as I am today.

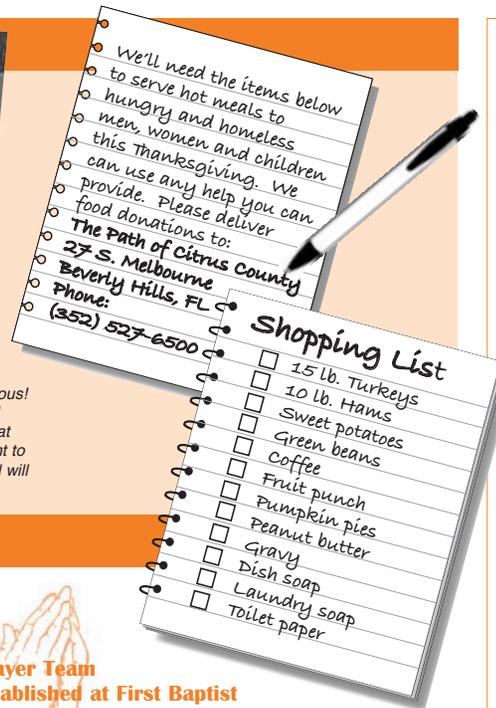
As the scripture says in Proverbs 3:5-6: **‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding . . . In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path.’**

Please keep my family and me in your prayers! — Kayla

I enjoyed working with Kayla very much. Though young (Kayla is 19), I found her to be very attentive and eager to practice what she learned in our parenting class. Obvious to me was her great love for her son, and her desire to give him the love and attention she confessed she missed growing up.

In the beginning, Kayla was somewhat shy and reserved. She fit in with the routine at The Path very quickly and I watched her blossom as her confidence grew in leaps and bounds. As her confidence in herself grew, she became much more affectionate with her son, playing with him more and sharing every little detail of his growth

and baby achievements. Her bubblyness was contagious! Michael opened right up, would smile and giggle, and welcomed hugs. Michael even started walking while at The Path. Kayla and Michael were an encouragement to the rest of the women in the house, and I know we all will miss them. — Parenting Coach Carol



DIRECTOR'S CORNER . . .

“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.”



DuWayne Sipper

Dear Friends of the Path,

All across the county we have heard of the slow down in the construction market. Some of our friends have closed up or moved to where the work is until they can come back.

Our phone calls have increased for the shelter, but more importantly the phone calls for assistance have gone through the roof for such things as electric and rental assistance. The Path does not provide these services because we needed all the cash we have to run our shelter.

We pray for our friends and county, and we hold on to the Faith that God can do anything. Together we will march on with the long term plan of building housing that our workforce can live in and our graduates can reside until they are self sufficient. Even though the cash is extremely low, our bills are paid. Thank you for your support as you help us take care of those that cannot. This is God's work.

God bless you and keep you,

DuWayne Sipper

DuWayne Sipper
Executive Director
The Path of Citrus County

Phone: (352) 527-6500
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Please keep us in your prayers about the many decisions we make that affect lives everyday.

TRAVEL NEWS

Your Best Travel Source: The Path Website!

Make your travel plans and benefit The Path . . . just by clicking on the graphic “Turn Your Vacations into Donations” from the Path’s website at www.pathofcitrus.org, link to our “Your Travel Business” website (www.ytbtravel.com/thepath) to make your hotel, plane, cruise, car rental plus other travel and vacation reservations the same way you would be using Orbitz or Expedia. It's so easy to do . . . the prices and booking availability are competitive to the big travel websites.

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.

Turn your Vacations into Donations

DINNER & FELLOWSHIP

Enjoying spaghetti dinner and fellowship with First Baptist Church, Beverly Hills

Path residents and members from this church fellowship regularly each week, and have developed a close bond. A special thanks for opening their doors to host The Path on holidays and special church events like Family Fun Day. This is just one of the many churches in the Citrus County community that welcomes The Path to fellowship events, worship services, midweek Bible Studies and other church activities. If your church would like to invite The Path to fellowship, please call (352) 527-6500.

Prayer Team Established at First Baptist Church, Beverly Hills

Come join us every Sunday from noon to 5 PM to pray for our mission. We meet in the sanctuary at 4950 N. Lecanto Highway.

Who is Homeless in Florida?

Homelessness transcends race, gender, age, family status and educational background. It is a reality for urban, mid-sized and rural communities. The following are statistics taken from the Department of Children and Families' 2006 report on homelessness in Florida:

- 40% of all homeless people are families; mostly single mothers with children
- 60% are single adults
- 8% are elderly persons over 62 years of age
- 23% are children age 18 or younger

