

Harvest: Hope

You and your guests are cordially invited to the

6th Annual Path Banquet
Friday, November 7, 2008
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

at The 1st Baptist Church of Crystal River
 700 Citrus Avenue, Crystal River

Buffet Dinner sponsored by WTI
 Chef Hayward 'Hap' Hough

Tickets: \$30 / person
 \$55 / couple
 \$250 for a sponsored table of 8

RSVP Kathryn Sipper (352) 522-0514
 or email: sipperK@bellsouth.net
 by October 10, 2008

The Path of Citrus County PO Box 3024 Inverness FL 34451

THE PATH NEEDS YOU!

Interested in volunteering for The Path's *Harvest Hope Banquet*? This is a great community service opportunity for youth ages 15 and up who need service hours, or for a small group. We need door greeters, guest escorts, servers and help to clean up following the banquet. Please call Kathryn Sipper at 352-522-0514 for more information or to sign up.

Please Keep Pete in your prayers...

We are Pete's family. That's how he would describe the staff and all the concerned people from the churches he visited.

An avid farmer and culinary genius, Pete has a deep Alabama drawl and an easy laugh. Someone brought him to The Path about a year ago when he was found nearly starving in the woods after walking most of the way from Texas. Pete was heartbroken over the death of a family member, drowning in hopelessness and addiction. Many heard his moving testimony at The Path Banquet last November when he told us being treated with patience and dignity meant so much. *He called The Path home.*

Pete wanted to continue what God had started in his life here and help out at the farm but during the summer it became apparent that something was wrong. His color was bad and he dropped weight, literally overnight. Pete seemed to be in constant pain, although he said nothing was wrong. Doctors discovered a tumor and determined it was inoperable. Executive Director, DuWayne Sipper contacted a local hospice, and Pete is now resting there comfortably. He is at peace with his life, his daughter, and with God. Pete wants to thank all of you for showing him real love, for the cards, prayers, visits and good care he has received. Please pray for him daily... contact The Path if you'd like to send a card or note of encouragement.

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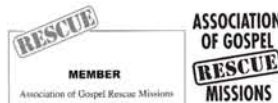
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 For pick-up, call:
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www.pathofcitrus.org

www.agrm.org



JOURNEY ON A NEW PATH: HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING

What an amazing journey... Robin has gone from the depths of despair to overcome major obstacles in her life. And she is still a "work in progress," as are so many here at The Path. Please take a moment to read Robin's reflections since coming to The Path:

Hi, I'm Robin and I've been at The Path for a few months. I came after hearing about The Path from the rehabilitation program I was in.

I don't know where I'd be without The Path. I'd probably be in a place I don't like or where they don't care and love you like the staff at The Path. I see hope for my future, coping on my own and my children back with me.

*I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, but I'm working through that now in a more positive, healthy way. Some days aren't so good, but I hold on. The biggest change since coming to The Path is a deeper relationship with Christ. I have a renewed lifestyle, and I know where I want my life to go. I see hope for my future, coping on my own and my children back with me. I see my life guided by the Word of God. **I know now that I need to be sculpted into who God wants me to become.***

Robin is thankful for each sober, drug free day she has. At The Path, she grows stronger through her counseling and guidance from her case manager, Rebecca, and through encouragement from all of us. Rebecca comments:

"Robin has a heart of gold. Since coming to The Path, she has learned it's okay to have a bad day or to say "I'm not okay today" instead of acting like everything is "fine" all the time. Robin is hungry for the Word of God and here at The Path she is being shaped and molded for God's purpose in her life. She is realizing that nothing is impossible with God as our leader."

We pray for her daily, and hope that all of you will do the same.



"If Jesus were to answer one of my prayers it would go something like this: To let God control my life. To do His work through me so I can show how unconditional His love is and bring people to Christ."

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Giving Thanks Always for All Things to God
- ▶ Robin's Support System
- ▶ Shopping List
- ▶ Director's Corner
- ▶ Upcoming Events and more . . .

Robin's Thanksgiving Prayer — In Her Own Words

Have you ever felt broken into a million little pieces? Jesus also felt that way nailed to a cross as a sacrifice for our sins. He helps us to put back the pieces. Sometimes do you hurt so bad that you don't want to get out of bed? When Jesus said "It's finished," He gave us a place to lay our burdens. *On Him.*

Did you have dreams and tried to make them go your way but it didn't work out the way you wanted to? Remember that His dreams are bigger and better than ours and beyond our imagination. Have you ever done something and just can't seem to forget about it? Hitting walls and getting scars only make you who you are. No one's perfect except Jesus. Have you ever asked God to take away something in you and it hasn't happened? Well, it's not up to Him to take away, but for you to give it up to Him.

Have you run into obstacles you thought stood in your way? Think of them as opportunities for God to work in you. As a child, did you ever wonder if God is big or small? He's both. He's so big that the heavens and earth can't contain Him, but also so small He can live inside our hearts.

My Thanksgiving prayer is that Jesus lives in each and every one of us because He has so much love to give and it's free. His hand is always reaching to us. All we need to do is take hold. Ask Him into your life. That's the best gift of all. --Robin



Volunteering is good for the heart, and it's fun, too! Just ask Sherri and Susan who lent a hand at last year's Harvest Hope Banquet.



Giving Thanks Always for All Things to God

Volunteers help collect food and other items during the holidays at Winn-Dixie, Inverness store. Visit The Path website at www.pathofcitrus.org to learn how you can participate in helping to feed the homeless in our community.



Give, and it shall be given to you... Donations of furniture, clothes and many other useful items help the mission and those in need.

Grocery Collection Dates at Winn Dixie - Inverness:
 Saturday Oct. 25, Nov. 22 & Dec. 20 from 10AM - noon
 Special collection dates on Thanksgiving, Nov. 27 and Christmas Eve from 9AM - noon

With God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26



The Path's Executive Director DuWayne Sipper (left) receives \$2,000 from the Black Diamond Foundation's Mr. David Burns (right). Our heartfelt thanks for supporting The Path regularly with funds to provide food at the shelter.

Dear Friends of the Path,

Very soon we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends. This holiday was started by the early settlers to express their gratitude to God for a bountiful harvest; we continue the tradition today as a reminder of His goodness.



But why do we wait until now to thank Him?

I know everyone doesn't really think that way... but especially during these difficult times, it is important to remember to thank God for even the littlest things: waking up to the smell of breakfast; hearing children playing outside from the comfort of your home; starting your car without any problems. Yes, even those little things.

For most of us it's difficult to imagine not having so many of these things that we take for granted. Let's try that together... right now. Opening the pantry and seeing only a bottle of ketchup. Or trying to find a safe place to bed down for rest at night because you've lost your home. Or how about waking up in a shelter with so many folks in the same situation: homeless and needy without a job?

The Path will again be observing the holidays with special meals served to those of our community in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas. **We will also be holding our 6th Annual Banquet, "Harvest Hope," on Friday, November 7** to raise funds for the Shelter. I hope to see you there as we endeavor to provide hope to those without a home in our county. For more information, please turn to the next page.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

DuWayne Sipper
 DuWayne Sipper
 Executive Director



The Path of Citrus County
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Please keep us in your prayers, and know that we keep each of you in ours.