



**Who we've been serving...**

Dan Jacobs, member of Pathway, loves the kids he has met through our ministry to [TLC](#), a local organization that provides emergency shelter for abused and neglected children. Since the beginning of this year, a group from Pathway has visited the TLC facility to play board games, welcome the kids to the Commons to play basketball, listen to music, do art projects, and play games, take a trip together to see the Kansas City Royals, and a swimming,

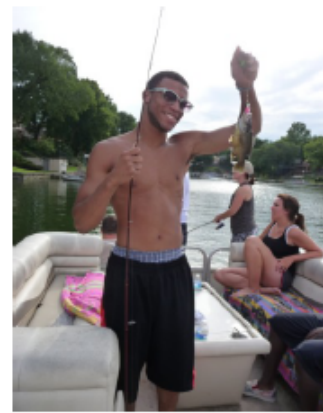
[See page 2 for more.](#)

**How we've been growing...**

Some new people have joined us on the journey in the last few months including Jason and Shawna Swartley and their family. Jason had this to share, "I found Pathway's website one day, and I'm not sure how. I e-mailed Kevin to make sure someone would be there Sunday morning if we popped in. Kevin later told me that made him a little nervous because that was one of the first table talk Sundays and he wasn't sure how it would go

[See page 3 for more.](#)

August 2010



TLC kid with his catch!

**Jason Swartley:**

**"...we're excited to see that Pathway wants first and foremost to understand God's plan for Olathe, and how we can best be part of it."**

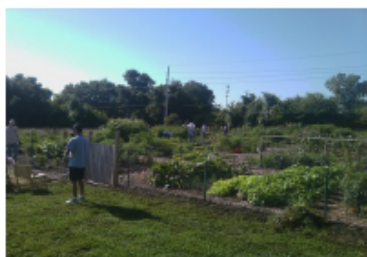
boating, and fishing trip to Lake Wakoumis.

Here is Dan's experience in his words: "Getting involved with TLC has been such a blessing for Pathway. The greatest impression I have each time we meet with them is how remarkable it is that these young adults who have already endured so much in life still have such great attitudes. I think it's pretty safe to say that the initial group of volunteers from Pathway were a little nervous and didn't know what to expect in the first encounter with TLC. On a dreary, rainy day, we were escorted through several locked passageways until we arrived in a well secured area where the kids were hanging out. There was a very tense moment when the supervisor told kids we were there to spend some time with them. Everyone just kind of looked at each kind of wondering what the deal was, until a young man shattered the awkward silence – "Alright, yeah! Let's do this! How y'all doing?" He then went down the line and shook everyone's hand. From that point on all the other residents joined in and made us all feel very welcome and a great time was had by all. We've had several events since then and I always think, "Why on earth would these teenagers want to hang out with us?" But every time we get together they overwhelm us with their positive attitudes, enthusiasm, and sincere gratitude. They always jump right into whatever activities are available and ALWAYS let us know how grateful they are."

The fishing trip to Lake Wakoumis was made possible through the spontaneous generosity of a friend of Dan's, and here's that story, again from Dan: "Through the course of conversation with one my classmates, Chris, I mentioned the TLC kids had expressed an interest in going fishing. Since Chris spends his summers teaching tourists how to deep sea fish, he offered to take the kids fishing before he headed to Florida for the season. Unfortunately, schedules didn't allow us to take him up on the offer. When Chris got back into town I told him a story about when the TLC gang had been exposed to a tough situation. He called me up the next day and invited the kids to come out to fish and swim at his house on Lake Wakoumis. After a rousing game of Pastor Kev's "dock diving acrobatic football passing challenge", Chris took the kids out on a boat for some fishing and swimming. A few minutes into the trip Chris unexpectedly jumped up from the Captain's chair and said to one of the kids, "Your turn, you drive." The young man froze as we headed for a docked boat. After grabbing the wheel in the nick of time, he beamed, "Man, I've never driven a boat before, I could get used to this." Once we reached the fishing hole, the boy listened intently as Chris gave him some pointers on how to reel in the bounty. After a slow start, he perfected the technique and reeled in fish after fish to overtake Pathway's Jan Hurley for the Lake Wakoumis fishing championship. After getting back to shore, he said to Chris, "Man I sure love this fishing." Chris asked him if he had a pole and he replied that he didn't. "You do now. Take your lucky pole home with you." The boy's face lit up like a kid on Christmas morning and he carefully clutched that fishing pole like it was a bag of gold as the TLC crew got into the van and headed back to Olathe. It was a great day made possible because one person had opened his heart after hearing about one of Pathway's S.T.O.R.I.E.S."

over. Well, turns out we loved it. I think we both knew immediately we wouldn't be visiting any other churches for a while. For whatever reason, we've always been attracted to things outside the norm. When we read the vision statement and saw the plans being laid at Pathway, we were at once intrigued. We deeply admire Kevin's boldness in being willing to leave behind the secure confines of "Church-ianity" so prevalent today. Pathway's willingness to seek His voice and His plan and instead of what is popular or "normal" is very refreshing. We recognize that we need to hear those things that challenge us to grow into all he wants us to be. We know we need to be a part of a community of believers committed to following him. We're excited to hear Pathway's vision for Olathe. More, we're excited to see that Pathway wants first and foremost to understand God's plan for Olathe, and how we can best be part of it. We're loving being at Pathway, and really want to get to know everyone better. There are some really great people here, and we've felt completely welcome since day one." Welcome to Pathway, Jason and Shawna!

## What we've been planting...



**Community Garden**

Pathway started the [Community Garden](#) in 2008, and it currently boasts 38 total plots, 29 filled this year with 30 families involved. Three of those families have three generations working together on their plots. Beginning and master gardeners learn from each other, and neighbors and even co-workers share plots.

The garden was discovered this year by Olathe Girl Scout Troop #110 and here's their story from troop leader Chris Hardy: "At the end of last school year, I talked to the girls about what they would like to do during this school year. One of the options was to do a Journey, which is a way for the girls to discover, connect, and take action. There were two Journey options, and they choose the Breathe Journey which was learning more about taking time to enjoy your surroundings and to keep their environment clean and safe. Less than a week later, I received an email from another Troop Leader asking me to send out the information about

the Pathway Community Garden to the Troops in the southern Olathe and Spring Hill areas to see if there were any Girl Scout Troops who would like to have a garden and to do a service project. That was my Troop!!

I talked to the girls and parents in my Troop and they were all on board. We decided what vegetables we would like to plant in our garden, and as a service project researched which plants are native to the Kansas City area that would attract caterpillars and butterflies. We all got together and planted both the veggie garden and the butterfly garden. Since then, the butterfly garden has taken hold and has grown. We have seen some butterflies and even have some caterpillars out there. We still hope to make a vegetable donation to the local food pantry. We would love for the community to come enjoy the path through the butterfly garden.”

So, if you're in the area of 159th & Blackbob, stop by and enjoy the butterflies...

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [kevin@followthepath.org](mailto:kevin@followthepath.org) or call 913-406-9744.

Check us out at [www.followthepath.org](http://www.followthepath.org) to learn more and join in our ministry through giving.