

RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2022

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

“Hope, Purpose, and Transformation”

Executive Director's Message

There is so much happening in the world that it's difficult to write about the day to day happenings at Restore. Some of our teenagers expressed anxiety as they witnessed the destruction caused by war. In their short lives they never imagined such upheaval. We are busy. Ximena and her team continue to provide the in person and virtual services. Monday is our biggest turnout with 12-15 participating in our art and media in person program. For the first time since the pandemic our numbers are low during the virtual programs. The weather is improving and kids like all of us are looking for a change of pace away from virtual learning. It is a challenge and we have to find creative ways to keep strong our connection with them. I am forming partnerships with community and civic organizations. Some are paid like the Institute of Music for Children and Incredible Days that infuse their expertise and programs within Restore's time with our youth. Others like Phillips66 and Union County College provide volunteers. I met with the City of Elizabeth's council woman to

discuss a joint Black History Negro Spiritual concert in February, 2023. The President of the local Elizabeth Branch of the NAACP is getting sponsors for Restore youth to be members and some will join their youth council. We want to collaborate with them on Earth Day on April 22. This will open the doors to NAACP students to check out Restore's membership. Ximena is working with the NAACP to add swimming lessons and life-guard certification to our summer program.

Ximena, her staff, and volunteers want to get back to pre COVID attendance, forty students showing up at least twice weekly. She anticipates that this summer will be bustling with activity with our July Summer program and youth summer jobs. In August we'll take a team of students, parents, and alumni to a two week mission service trip in Biloxi, Mississippi. So come the new school year in September, we pray to have the momentum and student leaders to begin inviting and recruiting back to our former numbers.

I'm confident that you will enjoy this newsletter. Ximena highlights our Mississippi team and this year's 5K. We have a team of 18 and are

seeking your help so everyone can go regardless of their income status. Here is the link for your donation.

Mateo's Mom says he can't wait for the Mission trip. He will be in the younger crew helping with serving meals and get first hand knowledge about food insecurity. Mateo is so dedicated to his school-work, friends, and Restore. Asialy was introduced to us by the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center at our summer program. She joined the student leadership team and joined Restore this school year. You'll enjoy reading her story.

As always, you are the drive behind what we do. Ximena and I are thankful for your partnership and acknowledge that you make all of our work and labor of love possible.

Grateful for your constancy in caring,

Linwood



Winter break fieldtrip to the movie theater
“Spider - man no way home”

RESTORE AT A GLANCE



Break time for a snack



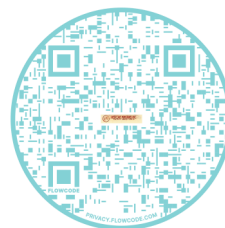
Valentin's Celebration



Monthly birthday celebration



Performing Arts: Acting and Digital Art sessions



Restore Ministries' Students
United For Justice (SUFJ).
5K Walk & Run 2022.
The Donation page is open
until the end of April We
only need \$2,500 to meet our
fundraising goal.

[https://p2p.onecause.com/.../
charity/restore-ministries-inc](https://p2p.onecause.com/.../charity/restore-ministries-inc)



Student's Profile: *Mateo*



Hello, my name is Mateo. I am 10 years old, and I am in the fifth grade.

I found out about Restore through my friend Ariana who also attends. The impact Restore had on me was incredible. I made new friends, met new people, went on awesome adventures, and became part of a new family, the Restore family. My mom loves me attending Restore. She supports me and takes me to Restore every week to create new memories. I like Restore because the staff is so nice, caring, and they would be willing to help you no matter what. I'm excited

about the mission trip to Mississippi because it will be a new experience. My expectations for the trip are to help people and have a fun time with my friends and family.

_ Mateo



Student's Profile: *Milay*



My name is Milay. I am seventeen years old and in the 11th grade. I found out about Restore about 7 years ago from Mr. Bagby because he was my older brother's teacher. Mr. Bagby told my mom about the

program, and ever since then, we have been a part of Restore. I like the community that is Restore, you know everyone, and they know you, and it just feels like a family when you arrive, and we are constantly having fun no matter where we are or what we are doing. Restore has had a significant impact on me by helping me create a leadership role with my peers. I would work over the summer as a counselor for the kids, and Restore taught me how to be responsible and how to treat others. I appreciate all the work they put into helping every kid with anything, such as homework, SAT prep, and even college applications. I'm excited about the mission trip this summer and being able to help others in Mississippi and explore what it is like over there. I expect it to be fun and educational for me, hope-

**REALIZING...
POTENTIAL...
MAXIMIZING...
ACHIEVEMENT...**

fully learning a lot and coming back home with a different type of mindset than I do now.

_ Milay



RESTORE AT A GLANCE

HYBRID AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Monday in person 3 to 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday - Virtual
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Visit us on the web!

<https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>
Instagram: @restore_ministries_inc
Donate!
<https://restorekids.org/>

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Virtual 5K
- ◆ Easter Celebration
- ◆ Virtual Science Fair Week
- ◆ Summer Camp (July 5 - 29)
- ◆ SUFJ Mississippi Summer Trip



Program Director's Message

“Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.”

— Brene Brown

Since the last Newsletter, the COVID19 wave has hit our area, including many of Restore's families. This situation caused a substantially low attendance of students. It's been a setback in the day-to-day activities even though we maintain a strong relationship with our youth and families.

I want to share with you two big projects besides the summer program, which is one of the most expected programs for youth. First is the annual 5K walk and run, our team has 36 participants. We have raised about \$30,000, so if you have not donated yet, please help us reach our goal of \$35,000. Our children, teenagers, parents, and staff are doing the walk/run on April 2nd, at a donor's

property in Union, NJ., who kindly offered the property for us to perform our 5K there, I am very excited, it will be an excellent outcome.

In the meantime, the Summer Program planning, recruitment, and preparation are in progress. The summer program 2022 will take place in July, is open to 40 to 50 participants. It will be an enrichment summer camp that fulfills our participants' expectations with exciting, challenging activities that everyone will love. Another essential part of the summer program is offering our high school students a leadership experience with our "youth summer job opportunities."

The 5K fundraising is the base for our next project in August, Students United for Justice "STUFJ" Mission Summer experience in Mississippi. We have a team of 18 participants: high school

students, college students, alumni, under 14 years old students who are accompanied by their parent/guardian during the mission service trip in Biloxi, Mississippi.

All are looking forward to this new opportunity of learning about serving the poor and marginalized.

The two-week mission trip will be divided between working, learning, and enjoying visiting places in the area. In the first week, the older students will be at the construction sites doing work according to their ages, and the younger ones in community service sites helping in the soup kitchen, pantry, and daycare work. In the second week, the youth will have more time to play and enjoy the area with the Civil Right Tour.

Linwood and I are very excited about it and working hard considering every de-

tail to make this trip an extraordinary experience for everyone. We expect when students return home, they will share their knowledge, experience and lead the way in helping their community.

We will keep you informed about the progress of these incredible upcoming projects, and as always, I want to thank you for your continued support; without it, none of this would be possible.

_Ximena Carrasco

“The most effective way to do it, is to do it.”

—AMELIA EARHART