

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC.

MENTORING

What is mentoring? Do you remember when you were a teenager, confused about so many things- school, family, love, friends, and your future. Where did you go for advice and support? Maybe you could talk with your parents, an older sibling, a relative, a respected teacher. You may have had grandparents nearby, or you were close to your neighbors. All these people were your mentors. But what if you had no one to guide you? How might your life be different if you had to figure it all out on your own?

Today about 40% of a teenager's waking hours are



Group picture in the fireplace room

spent without companionship or supervision. They

live in a world of texting and face book and instagram, but

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Executive Director's Message

What Happens When Everything Goes Wrong

The Restore field trips always sound so great on paper. They are supposed to give the kids new experiences, celebrate traditions, and bring us all together. The truth is if you do them right, they're hard work. Our recent fishing trip was no exception. What should have been a trip on Paradise Island turned out as an evening on the Survivors Reality show. It was hard work coordinating, getting the food,

making sure the down payment got to the boat company on time and making sure communication was open.

I was pleased with the results so far. We had fathers going with their sons, former Restore members, donors and their families and friends and of course the students. Twenty-six made plans to go and most paid in advance. This was the most ever and I was on cloud nine thinking about the fun and connections that would happen on the boat.

I should have prepared myself for the worst when I lost my car key the morning of the trip and came to Restore one hour late. My key was in the dirty clothes hamper. I was not discouraged because I left myself plenty of time for mishaps. It was 11:15am and the boat boarded at 2:30pm. Everyone came with their money and we were on the road by noon to our pre-boarding barbecue lunch. I found out that the boat was 45 minutes away from the barbecue. We chowed down the food and sodas and took to our vehicles. All was well as we entered

the dock by 2:30. A rocky beginning, but we arrived on time, the bill was paid, and twenty-five were able to come. There was an excitement in the air. Only one person did not show up. That was amazing. This by far will be the best fishing trip, I kept saying to myself. We fished for an hour and a half and no catch. Someone caught a shark. Something is out there, with 25 fishing, someone has to catch fish.

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Homework Center with Linwood

***“Tell me and I
forget, teach me
and I may
remember,
involve me and
I learn.”***

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

very little real conversation with adults who have time for them. Times have changed; more parents are overwhelmed with work, often they don't have family support systems, and they are afraid to let their children out in unsafe neighborhoods.

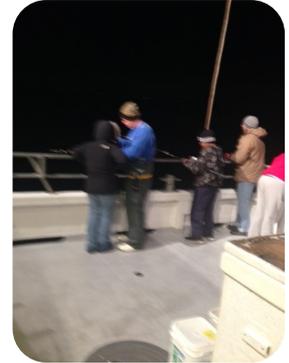
Restore youth are at important turning points in their lives. They can go down different paths that may affect the rest of their lives. They are so impressionable and vulnerable, open to both positive and negative influences. If they hear only today's media and their peers, they may permanently turn off from school and turn to a variety of risky behaviors. But if they have caring and knowledgeable adults in their lives, they will have better attitudes and behaviors at school and are more likely to attend college

So many Restore kids have done well because someone cared about them; someone showed them the possibilities life has to offer for youth who try hard. There are students in college, in the military, in successful businesses.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of Restore to guide our kids through these difficult years. Restore staff and volunteers get to know kids, tutor them, play games and take them on trips. We try to show them the big world outside their circumscribed lives, and let them know that there is a place for them. Restore works with families so that together we can overcome the negative influences all around these youth.

It really does take a village to raise a child.

***Mrs. Marylou Sporn
Member of the Board***



The fishing trip



Kids who are sea sick



Group activity in the gym



Bike Club at Convent Station



Monthly Saturday cooking class

Executive Director's Message, Continued from page 1

We go out to the deeper waters. The water is rough out there. REAL ROUGH OUT THERE!! The boat is rocking back and forth and Angie comes to me and says her cell phone was thrown out of her hand by the waves. She lost it in the water. She is the first to get sick. She vows this is her first and last time fishing. The waves are not calming down. They are getting rougher and more intense. We prepared for the cold, but not the rockiness and the waves splashing against and in the boat. I see less people out fishing and one by one people are dropping like flies due to sea sickness. I can see the

distorted faces and people rubbing their stomachs as faces are placed over the rails for the depending regurgitation of lunch. It is only 5:16pm and half of the crew are sea sick. The fathers are speaking Spanish. I do not want to know what they are saying. Half of the crew are begging to call it a day and the other half want to continue to see if we can catch something before we head back to shore. Still no fish. Where are they? I am so stressed out right now. All of the kids are in the cabin laying across a table moaning. Three more adults succumb to the winds and the waves. To say that I am totally disap-

pointed is an understatement. It is an hour later and two more becomes sick. At 6:18 I begin to feel sea sick. I call it a day. The count for the day was 19 out, 6 survivors and no fish.

So what do you do when nature takes its course and ruins your plans? Not much. I conclude that this by far was the worst Restore trip in the history of Restore. No, in the history of field trips. Nothing good can come of this. During the next three weeks I get text messages thanking me for the trip.

“Good Morning Linwood, just

want to touch based on behalf of me and my son to thank you for the fishing trip. Your dedication to us was wonderful to watch. Even though no one caught any fish, just going out in the cold and spending time together was good.”

“Mr. Bagby this was my first fishing trip. It was good and bad at the same time. Mostly bad. We spent time together and even though we were sick, it was still an adventure.”

Mr. Linwood Bagby

Founder and Executive Director

Interim Program Coordinator Update:

Three months have passed since we started the 2013-2014 school year and Restore has remained very active in college tours, trips, monthly cooking classes, video & reading clubs, and Family & Friends Dinners. Linwood mentioned in his article that it sounds easy to plan and to have a tour or an activity, but I agree with him, that it is not simple. It is not just because of the responsibility but because we have to reach the expectations of our members, their parents, the volunteers and the staff. It is essential that within every activity our members will learn, enjoy and be satisfied. When this happens I feel very pleased. Of course Restore's success is possible with the support and partnership of my boss, Linwood, cooperation of my co-workers, volunteers, and

the teenagers who fulfill their community service hours with us. All of us working together make a good team.

Restore staff have the greater responsibility of providing educational support through our Homework Center. Academic achievement is a priority and that is why we provide supplies, space, time, and tutors so that the students can accomplish their task and succeed in school. Some students, especially our teenagers, take it as a punishment that we require an hour to do homework. They complain that one hour eats into their time on the basketball court. But providing the adult volunteer as tutor and mentors helps them be more attentive to their work. Most come to realize



Homework Center with Tutors

that the Homework Center and the adult volunteer are there for their own good. We all are satisfied when our students reach their goals and shine academically in school.

In the last few months we developed programs and communications that have integrates more parents in their child's development in our after school program. We communicate to every parent the important role they play in getting their kids to attend Restore every day.

We added a monthly cooking class on Saturday. Parents and younger siblings come and cook with the Restore students and staff. We set up stations for appetizers, main meals, and deserts. Mothers and Fathers share their culinary expertise with the group. We made homemade pizzas, Spanish foods, and some really tasty deserts.

The goal is not perfection, but to be together, enjoy one another, have fun and learn. For that very reason when we give our best to the many programs and people at Restore, we experience our greatest accomplishment.

Ximena Carrasco

Interim Program Coordinator

RESTORE AT A GLANCE

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*The season of love
peace and joy is here
to stay
Celebrate forever this
season and not just
today
HAPPY NEW YEAR
From all of us!!*



Student Profile:

Richard Franklin

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www.RESTOREKIDS.ORG



Hi my name is Richard Lamar Franklin and I am 14 years old. I have been attending Restore for the last 2 years. I attend Joseph Battin School #4. How I found out about Restore was when I was walking home one day and my friend asked me if I wanted to go with him on a Restore trip. I asked him what Restore was, and he said it was the best program you could ever go to. I asked my mom if I could go and she said yes so I went and had a wonderful time.

From there I started going to Restore. At Restore I participated in a lot of activities like basketball, soccer and many more sports. One of my best experiences was the Restore Olympics. Where we have select games that everyone participates in and the winners receive their own trophies. I have recommended two people to Restore who currently attend. Mark Gallegos and Michael Castillo who both tell me how exciting and fundamental Restore is to their lives.

REALIZING...

POTENTIAL...

MAXIMIZING...

ACHIEVEMENT...

One positive experience at Restore would be the Homework Center. The Homework Center provides tutors and additional school supplies to help me further my education. The Homework Center has helped me personally with Math and Language Arts. My grades have improved tremendously since I've been attending Restore. Restore is such an amazing experience, and I will continue to be apart of it throughout my entire high school years.

- RICHARD FRANKLIN