

# RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

MARCH - APRIL 2024

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

## ACE Summer Program is Approaching

Learning, Safe and Fun Experiences



### Student's Profile: Mezziah

Hello! My name is Mezziah Taylor. Last summer, I participated in the ACE Summer Program with Restore Ministries, Inc. Today, I want to share some of my experiences by giving you a detailed look at my participation and how this program positively impacted me. When I heard that I would have a summer job for the first time ever, I was extremely excited, and wondered what Restore had in mind for me. I was thrilled to meet new people and ecstatic to learn what the job experience would be like. Although I was eager to get started, mandatory training at Johnsonburg Camp came first. When I first got to Johnsonburg Camp, I was stunned by the beauty and serenity of the location.

Training for this summer job was very collaborative and provided me with an opportunity to meet lots of people! We played some of the games that we, as counselors, would be doing with the campers. Additionally, we learned CPR, which was interesting, informative and an important skill to have. As a side note, all my peers became CPR certified; I also met lots of new people! Training also reviewed the theme for ACE Summer Program: Environmental Justice. Although I was never a super environmentally conscious person, by summer's end, both the campers and I had learned a lot!

One of the projects that stood out for me was, "Adopt-A-Park," which we completed at Warinanco Park. This activity was physically demanding, yet fun! Additionally, it was very satisfying to know that I helped the environment by removing invasive species and picking up trash from one of NJ's beautiful parks. Another favorite activity was with the Institute of Music for Children. All these activities were very fun and informative. We learned about different art styles, artists, music genres, and instruments from different cultures. Additionally, we worked with pottery, painted, made masks, and learned about digital art and graphic design. And there's more: we created our own companies and designed the logos. We also acquired new dance skills and were educated about music styles.

All these learning experiences broadened our minds, helped campers reach new levels of artistry, and equipped all of us with a better understanding of different cultures. Our minds continued to be broadened by another field trip: NOMA, Newark Museum of Art. The kids and I saw so many beautiful paintings and sculptures, including sculptures of animals!



Mezziah speaking at CDBG Community Development Block Grant Program 50th Anniversary

Working in small groups was one of the most challenging and transformative experiences for me. For example, we read books to the campers, played games, and completed arts and crafts projects that were based on the book we read together. The games we played together gave campers a deeper understanding of and engaging way to work with and learn from the environment.

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In conclusion, this program was so enjoyable! it's probably not a surprise to you that I'm planning to be part of ACE Summer Program again! The entire experience opened my mind, broadened my perspective, taught me about the world, and allowed me to make lots of new connections. Equally important, I'm now much more aware of the environment around me.



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

## RESTORE AT A GLANCE



### ACE Summer Program in National Newsletter!

#### Arts Community Enrichment Summer Program - Elizabeth, NJ.

Issue 21 • HEART - 4th Quarter 2023

Page 10 & 11

“On July 19th, EPA Region 2, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) Environmental Response Team, and OEM CMAD provided an outreach event to students who are studying environmental justice and science during the summer. The Arts Community Enrichment (ACE) summer program is based in an underserved community and intended to enhance the educational

graders, were given an overview of EPA’s mission and a tour of the EPA Edison facility and laboratory, followed by some hands-on experiences. These interactive sessions, including environmental sampling, air monitoring and mobile lab chemical analysis, were designed to inform the students on different paths of education and, hopefully, will inspire some to explore paths leading to careers in protecting human health and the environment. Feedback from the ACE leadership was very positive and the potential for repeating the event next year was discussed.”

Experiences of students from Elizabeth, NJ. Over 30 students, ranging from rising 3rd graders to rising 12th

THANK YOU, EPA!



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## Volunteer's Message

### HYBRID AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ◆ Monday **In - Person**  
3:00 to 6:00 pm  
The Snyder Academy  
42 Broad Street,  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201
- ◆ Tuesday **Virtual**  
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- ◆ Thursday **In-Person**  
3:00 to 6:00 pm  
Arabella Miller Center  
163 1st. St.  
Elizabeth, NJ.07206



Greetings from Mary Beth Charters! I'm a second career interfaith chaplain, retired Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant, and volunteer with Restore Ministries after-school program. My experiences over the past year have underscored this program's mission: to provide a safe, positive, and welcoming environment where participants are enriched and nurtured, community is built and a plethora of diverse activities are experienced. My role includes welcoming and engaging with program participants, and supporting the young adult and adult staff. My LDTTC background naturally facilitates homework completion, which is an integral program component. As a volunteer, veteran educator and parent, this caring, welcoming community is highly recommended for any school-age child.



## Program Director's Message

In this edition, we briefly reflect upon the resounding success of last year's ACE Summer Program and, looking forward, we include a snapshot of the exciting preparations for this summer. More detailed information can be found in the community flyer (enclosed). Registration has begun and program slots are filling up, which is a testimony to the program's popularity and effectiveness.

Rest assured, with your support, we will offer a month of learning and appreciation of the arts. A variety of experiences will provide campers and junior counselors with functional skills and hands-on work experiences. We will learn about social justice issues, participate in fun, recreational activities, and take a variety of cultural trips. The campers will take home many fulfilling summer experiences. We will be offering summer jobs and related training to Union County participants. This year's training program will include three days of CPR, First Aid, and team building. Additionally, training will include familiarity with the summer curriculum, classroom and small group management skills, job descriptions and responsibilities, and the guidelines to ensure the safety of campers and junior counselors. The opportunity to be a junior counselor encourages and challenges youth workers in an environment where they will learn and practice leadership skills.

I hope you enjoy the articles that reflect perspectives on last year's Restore ACE Summer Program work. Your participation is essential for this summer. All our efforts to plan and execute an outstanding summer experience for campers and junior counselors is possible with your generous financial contribution. We are looking forward to another successful and blessed summer.

*Ximena Carrasco*

"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."  
— Albert Einstein

# RESTORE AT A GLANCE



## CONTACT US

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Tax-deductible donations can be made by scanning the QR code and visiting our Donate page, or by mailing a check to:  
 P.O. BOX 29  
 Elizabeth,  
 New Jersey 07207



Donate!

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<https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>  
 Instagram: @restore\_ministries\_inc

**ACE SUMMER PROGRAM 2024**  
 "ARTS COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT"  
 ACE PROGRAMA DE VERANO 2024 "ARTES COMUNIDAD ENRIQUECIMIENTO"

8 DE JULIO AL 2 DE AGOSTO

EDADES 7-17

DE LUNES A VIERNES

**LUNES**  
 ENRIQUECIMIENTO EDUCATIVO Y CULTURAL  
 Incredible Days Group - Modalidad Híbrida

**MARTES & JUEVES**  
 ARTES  
 Institute of Music For Children  
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**MIÉRCOLES**  
 PASEOS CULTURALES  
 Viajes de todo el día

**VIERNES**  
 INTERACCIÓN PARA FORJAR LAZOS COMUNITARIOS  
 Excursiones locales

CUPO LIMITADO PARA 50 ESTUDIANTES

"GRATIS" PERO DONACIONES DON AGRADECIDAS

REGISTRACIONES EN LINEA:  
 ABIERTAS DESDE EL 19 DE ABRIL

UBICACION: "A.C.E." PROGRAMA DE VERANO  
 THE ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER  
 184 1ST ST, ELIZABETH, NJ 07206

Para más información o si tiene preguntas contactar en [Restore1161@gmail.com](mailto:Restore1161@gmail.com)



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The Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown



NAACP



ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER



INCREDIBLE DAYS



Second Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth



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