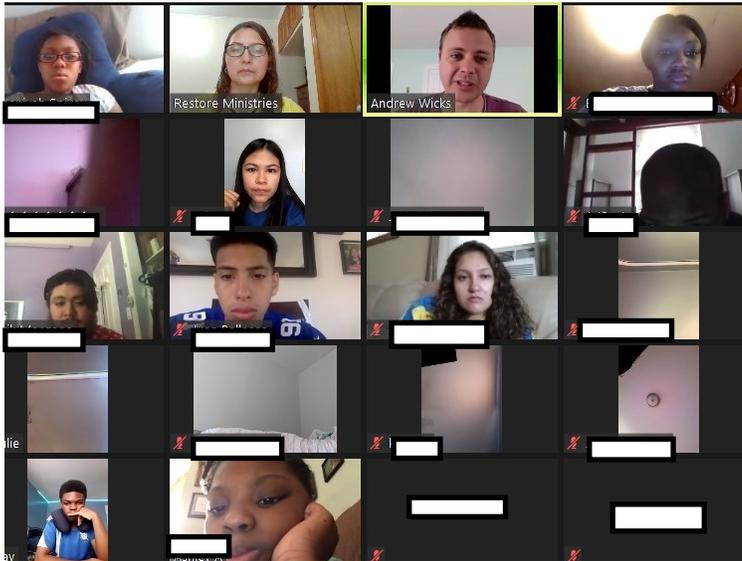


RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

The "New Normal"



aboard as donors. Students invited their friends and Restore increased in value to the community.

The next seven years, our students experienced growth in leadership and participation, as you helped me fine tune our mission. You understood that it wasn't enough to have our members to be safe, have fun, and experience care. You wanted more and parents wanted a better life for their children. We all sensed that our members were seeking better opportunities for themselves. They may not have known how to achieve success but in knowing that you were praying and cheering them on to greatness, they instinctively perceived that there was more to life.

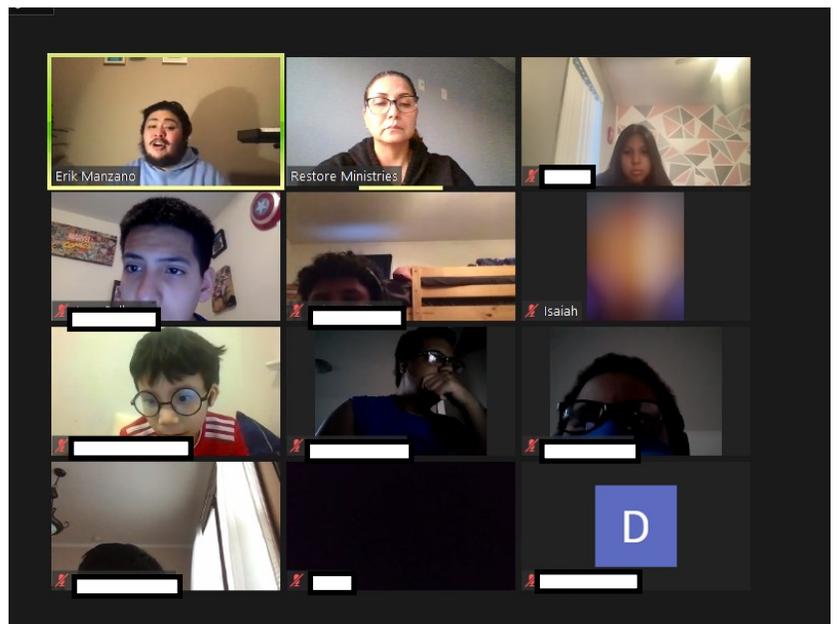
Executive Director 's Message

Dear Friends,

Over 26 years ago many of you helped me found a nonprofit after-school program in Elizabeth, NJ. With your prayers and encouragement, you were instrumental in giving guidance and support to neglected and vulnerable city youth. Restore's beginnings were small with potential. The first ten years were learning and shaping who we were and why we existed. Others soon joined you and me in helping to mentor and to walk alongside a small group of struggling teens. You were there and saw modest successes with limited people and resources. In time more began to happen— Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth gave us a home base, more of you volunteered, many of you committed to serving as board members, you increased and came

Over time Restore grew into an established organization with

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Executive Director 's Message

Continued from page 1

searched-based principles and programs that ameliorated members' success with their self-identity, academics, and within their social and family lives. During the nine years that followed, you have seen a big increase in our membership. Long-time and new students enrolled year after year. They extended themselves in several of our programs and engaged in healthy relationships with the adults. They thrived in confidence, at school, and in leadership. They talked about and planned for college or trade school.

Because of you, Restore students can see that a better future is possible for them. They make better choices because of your continual influence. Restore youth are less likely to be involved in using or selling drugs. Gang affiliation is unheard of and seldom do our young people find themselves in the criminal court system. They picked friends with the same positive values about school and studies. They waited longer than their peers on romantic relationships and sexual activity. They are responsible when they do decide it is time. They make plans on how to get to their next important milestone after graduation.

Times and Restore changed. But the want – and even the desire to have a positive influence and impact on the lives of urban youth continued undiminished. Restore is not the sole inheritor of these prior efforts we have many stewards in youth development organizations. Those that have pioneered past achievements, garnered much praise for their present work, and are paving a promising future for young people. I'm thankful that Restore is considered a local leader.

Lately, we have accelerated our work to support student's success as we all learn how to build community

and grow in a digital world. Outreach is done differently now, but our students' needs continue and Restore is here to give hope and opportunity. Through your ongoing presence, our established partnerships, and working with parents, we continue to provide programs and services that are right for the times in which students find themselves.

Your predictable finances and prayers provide research-based programs, positive experiences, and values that influence a young person's development. You help them become caring, responsible, and productive adults. The changing and unchanging topics of life, goals, and meaning are presented with conviction and humility. Restore remains a force for good. We believe in the value that Restore brings to our community, and with you, Restore can continue into the next 26 years and more.

We thank you for your financial support that helped us get through a very stressful 2020. This letter asks you to partner with us again in this mission and ministry in 2021.

Your financial contribution, grateful and generous given at this time sustains us now and gives us confidence, even courage, for the year ahead.

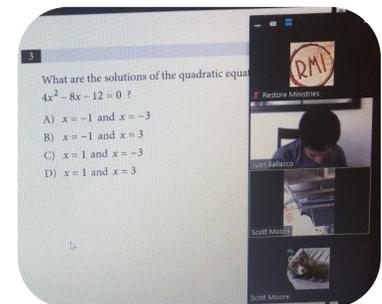
Thank you for all you do,

Linwood

P.S.

Consider monthly contributions.

Visit us on the web!
 Donate!
www.Restorekids.org
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/restorekids/>



Program Director's Message

“Your Outreach and Influence Continues”

The church that gave us a home base for 20 years is in the process of selling the building, so Restore will continue as 90 percent virtual. We partner with Phillips66, Incredible Days and Mad Science to bring hands-on tutoring, justice issues and science to our students on a weekly basis. We are currently serving 3 groups: elementary, middle school, and high school. We meet three times during the week: between 4:30 and 6:30.

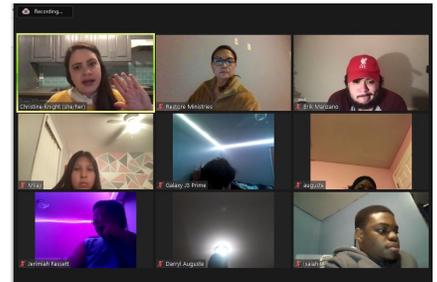
Here are the virtual/online programs that your prayers and financial support provide through Restore:



Phillips66 Corporate Partners: scheduled Zoom sessions with the company's New Hire staff to provide academic support, coaching college preparation, guide students on how to manage their time, help them with study organizational skills, and meeting project deadlines. Restore working to coordinate parents schedules and commit to having children consistently attend and keep us updated with their children's academic needs.



Incredible Days: contract with a faith-based organization to host teaching modules on social justice topics as they relate to youth and society. Each topic will cover 8 weeks and the aim of this 8-week online program designed for high school and middle school members will be to explore relevant topics and how to respond to them positively and with compassion.



Mad Science: is a nonprofit organization that will whose staff will offer virtual and live hands-on science, for students of all ages and each class will have a duration of 8 weeks



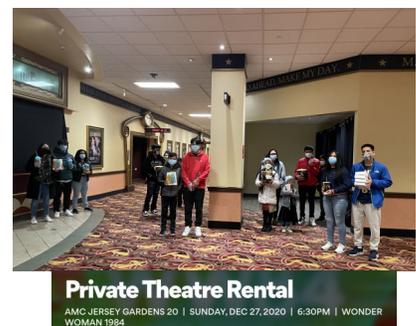
Fun activities and Events: Once a month we have field trips or community building time. Some of the activities are AMC movies, family nights, cooking together, and birthday celebrations. These trips will be virtual or face to face in small groups. We'll practice mask-wearing and keeping our social distance when meeting in person.

Thank you for your care,

Ximena Carrasco

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

Field trip to the movie theater

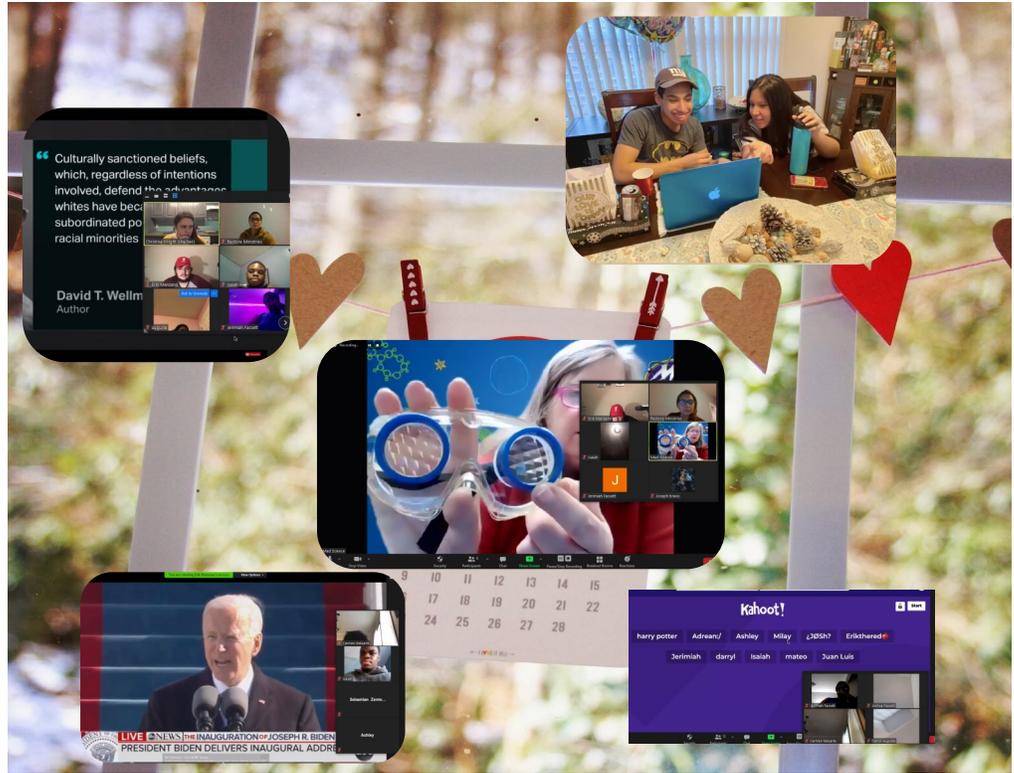


RESTORE AT A GLANCE



VIRTUAL
AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAM
SPRING 2021
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Visit us on the web!
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<https://www.facebook.com/restorekids/>



Federal Work Study Students' Message



My name is Erik Manzano I'm a student at Union County College, and I have been a part of Restore since 4th. grade. We are talking 12 years. Time flies when you are surrounded by amazing and genuine people and an incredible atmosphere. I chose to be a part of Restore for so many years due to the fact that it opened up a world to me that I did not even know existed. I got on my first boat, went fishing, got seasick for the first time. Getting seasick does not sound too great but it is a great story to tell. I was a city kid without a single story to tell and I now have an abundance of stories to tell and hope for one day to be able to do the same for other kids at Restore.

Gratitude - Isaiah Auguste - I will always be fond of Restore. I have created many bonds that I am sure will last a lifetime. Restore has helped me and encouraged me in my times of need and have supported me whenever I felt down. I recalled my first day at Restore, I was scared and nervous to talk to anybody, but even so, Restore welcomed me with open arms and made me feel comfortable enough to be myself. Restore has also helped develop my character and has made me a better person through my various interactions with the other members in Restore. With kids who were older than me and kids who were younger than me, I was able to learn and experience a lot from being around them. The staff also instilled within me a great sense of responsibility by doing various chores and setting up activities for different events. I feel a great sense of gratitude towards Restore and all that it's done for my family and me. It provided a gateway, an escape from all the problems that I was dealing with at school, which is why I will always be grateful to Restore and support it any way I can. It makes me feel good to inspire others the same way others inspired me.

