

RESTORE AT A GLANCE

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STUDENT PROFILE

Tyshon Lanier



Tyshon and Linwood

My name is Tyshon Lanier. I am thirteen years old in the eighth grade. I was recently elected President of my school and my first line of business to address will be enforcing the uniform policy.

Coming to Restore has benefited me a lot. Recently I went on a college visit to New York University (NYU).

We visited a physic lab, spent time in two dorms, spoke to faculty and students, and ate lunch in the city. This was a great experience for me because it showed me the possibilities that going to college have to offer me. I had many questions about my future and if college was for me. Now I am

more confident in what I am looking for in a college. I noticed that since the NYU college visit, I am more focused and making progress in what I need to do to reach my goals when I get older.

Personally Restore is more than the games, food, laughs and jokes. Restore helps me to work hard at my academics and at the same time teaches me how to be independent. I feel that whatever negative images society or people have about city kids, I found a place that not only accepts me, but pushes me to better myself

For example, every kid must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in Restore. I feel it should be higher. I put in a lot of effort and I exceeded the minimum GPA. I am an excellent student with a 95 average. I strive to go above and beyond my problems, surpass my limitations and to be myself throughout the process. I feel this pushes me to prevail not only in my grades, but also improvements in my attitude and behaviors.

I want to thank all the people involved with Restore for giving me the opportunity to excel.

"HELPING URBAN YOUTH ACHIEVE"

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC.

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Aspiration...Perspiration...Desperation



Restore at New York University Tour

Embedded in America's cultural mythology

is the notion of "pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps." Ours is a land of opportunity. Even if we do not begin life equally gifted or advantaged, this nation's bedrock documents trumpet our equality. In unison, we proclaim the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

With this tradition, we are early and often exhorted to "be the best you can be."

But, for poor kids bright optimism dulls quickly against abrasive reality.

* No money for rent; move to yet another place, a new school.

* By month's end, the cupboard and frig are bare.

* Hand-me-down clothes don't cut it at school.

* Pretending not to want may prepare one for an acting career, but...

Chronic unmet needs can be either a stairway to aspiration or a slide to desperation. What determines one's eventual destination is perspiration.

Restore is in the encouragement business. We inject hope in hungry, young spirits. We're daily lifting chins and assuring: "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." In the face of despair, we hug or kick butt as needed.

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Executive Director's Message

I get lots of questions from you on how to make a positive impact in the lives of our kids and teenagers. You want to know what you can do when you are all so busy with your job, family, church and civic responsibilities.

In the mist of the busyness, you still want to really make a difference.

The good news is that

Restore is a youth service organization where every little effort can reap big benefits.

A Restore donor emailed wanting to know how to give to Restore through the United Way. A church asked me to bring a couple of kids and share five minutes about what we do. Five engineers from our corporate partner Phillips 66 volunteer their math knowledge at our

homework center. A public school employee comes weekly to help with writing, reading and math.

We bring together volunteers, corporate, local government and foundation sponsors, with our understanding of youth development and encourage, inspire and motivate our young people to reach their goals regardless of their circumstances. Working side-by-side, these

partnerships have transformed the lives of city kids and teenagers.

Carlos, a recent Restore graduate, is a freshman at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He is the first in his family to graduate from high school and go on to college. Carlos plans to bring friends he made at NJIT to volunteer at Restore. He shared his dream of someday using engineering to bring better

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Aspiration...Perspiration...Desperation

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Restore Staff and participants on a college tour at NYU- New York University

It can take years to convince kids to aspire despite hardship and low expectations. But, thanks to Restore's donors, some do earn nonpublic schools scholarships. Everyone has access to homework help. Most escape the city to explore nature and make new friends at summer camp. The message is consistent: "We believe in you."

To perspire in pursuit of a dream requires exemplars of hope and sources of encouragement. For city kids facing poverty, discrimination and inferior education, the odds favor despair. Restore defies these odds by getting kids to aspire.

We are not always successful. Some of our kids surrender to negative self-image, to neighborhood seductions, to the burden of raising themselves. But, fortunately, many more reject despair. They aspire to a better life, and with guidance, they turn aspiration into achievement.

The youth encouragement business is resource intensive. Restore needs

volunteers to mentor and tutor. To expand horizons, we need people passionate about the arts, sciences, writing, yoga and other enriching pursuits. Nonpublic and college bound students seek tuition sponsors. We need an army of monthly donors at any level.

Restore is a small village within a large urban landscape. But, working one-on-one with youngsters, our impact can be profound. Get involved; give of your time, talent and treasure. Help kids aspire and reject despair. Your support of Restore could tip the scales in favor of "a life well lived."

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude".

Thomas Jefferson



Open House workshop

Sometimes, we first have to fill an empty stomach before exhorting the wonders of sweating to achieve goals.

The saying about villages raising a child fits Restore. Whether with school supplies or glasses, birthday gifts or doggie bags, Restore plugs holes in young lives. As children morph into teens, needs change. College visits, SAT prep, interview clothes and prom bids factor into a city youth program. Thankfully, our village is borderless.



Kids, volunteers and staff in Thanksgiving Dinner



Executive Director's Message

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living conditions to communities around the world. He is only a freshman, but he is already thinking about how he can make a difference in the lives of others.

To farther our mission, to help city kids and teenagers graduate from high school and go into higher education, we want to continue mentoring our current members and reach out to new ones. At present we

have twenty- six young people in grades 7-12. Our goal is to offer the Restore programs to forty-five youth during this current school year.

To be honest, we need your help if we are to move forward. We are looking for people who are willing to volunteer at least two hours per week or per month. We are opened Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 4-7:30pm. We need

those who have a love for chess, the arts, sciences, math, writing, yoga, basketball or soccer coaching and other enriching pursuits. You may want to be a driver and accompany a student at one of our college fairs or visits. We also need people who will help edit a student's college essay or help our parents with nonpublic school and college application and financial aid

procedures. Despite your busy lives, you can still volunteer a small amount of time and have a major impact on kids and teenagers like Carlos. Be a Restore volunteer and help change the lives and direction of our kids.

Linwood

the summer with the Restore Summer Program. Tyshon enjoys skateboarding and art-related activities such as drawing, airbrushing, and graffiti. Tyshon attends homework center regularly and is often seen assisting other participants with their assignments. Adding to Tyshon's achievements, he was recently elected President of his school and his first line of business to address will be enforcing the uniform policy at his school.

All three of these participants are prime examples of academic excellence that is nurtured and characterized through the Restore After-School Program. They maintain their part by being a role-model and having a positive impact on present and future Restore participants. They deserve our praise and acknowledgements.

Terrence

Program Coordinator's Message

Entering out third month of the Restore After-School Program, we are already experiencing some outstanding achievements and accomplishments from Restore participants. As we draw near to the end of the 1st marking period, many of our participants have taken initiative in improving their academics by regularly attending the homework center and utilizing the tutors and volunteers available to them.

Amir Foy, senior at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, makes a commitment to attend Restore After-School Program at least two times a week to take advantage of the help he

receives during homework center. He began attending Restore during the 2012 Restore Summer Program and has remained an active participant since. Amir is an active member with the JROTC, Sigma Beta Teens, and Abraham Clark High School Track and Field teams. He is currently beginning the process to narrow down his college prospects and hopes to make a final decision on which college to attend to by early-mid December.

Among our middle-school participants, we have Jakub Klimkowski and Tyshon Lanier. Jakub Klimkowski is a 7th grade student at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark,

NJ and is financially supported through scholarship funding provided through Restore donors. Jakub remains committed to his academic studies and assisting other middle-school aged children with their studies. He is member of the water polo team for St. Benedicts Prep. He regularly participates in Chess matches with other Restore participants and is a member of the Restore Chess Club that started October 25th. Tyshon Lanier is an 8th grade student at Charles J. Hudson #25. Much like Amir, Tyshon started attending Restore After-School Program in May of 2011-2012 school year and continued through