

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC

MARCH/APRIL 2014

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VOLUNTEERING CAN BE FUN AND FULFILLING



Volunteers from the ZCC Group with Restore Kids

Volunteering is one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable things you'll ever do. You have the opportunity to help shape the future of the organization for the better by empowering the staff and community to achieve its mission. Volunteering also benefits the volunteers themselves. Volunteer-

ing can become an important community resource because it brings people together to work on a goal. At Restore, volunteers come together to teach a skill like in our cooking classes or help our students do better in school through the homework center. Volunteers

make it happen. The Restore community is improved by our volunteers who ameliorate our work with our kids and who more effectively help us do what needs to be done. Time and again the staff at Restore commends our volunteers by voicing our belief that our volunteers help us multiply our efforts with our members and their families. Something as small as begin a constant presence at the ping pong table has increase not only the number of kids who found a new hobby, but also increase their skill level as they become determined to beat the volunteer who loves ping pong. Donated time from our volunteers brings hope to our members and

their families. The month of March was a special time for Restore. A group of men from a local church came weekly to provide sports outlet for our members. Although some kids were better athletes than others, our time with the volunteers built trust, enthusiasm for the group and a connection with men who are mostly missing from our boys lives. Seeing so many men come week after week for one month helped to bring joy into the lives of our members and showed them that people who looked different from them in age, race and geography cared about them. What a powerful message they brought to us. The men who

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Executive Director's Message: The Value of Volunteering



Mr. Bagby at Restore's Saturday Cooking Class

Recently Francie was contacted by a board member to find out if she still wanted to volunteer food for our large group meetings. Monthly she prepared a big one dish meal that we all enjoyed. I

felt embarrassed that I hadn't kept in touch with her, but very grateful that she didn't forgotten about us and still wanted to share with us by preparing a meal for our kids. Vol-

unteers are the backbone of any non profit. Restore cannot fulfill its call and mission if it were not for the host of companies, churches and individuals who give of their time, resources and talents to help us move forward and try harder. Phillips66, formerly Conoco Phillips, is an industrial giant whose facility is located in a near-by neighborhood. The company is active in the surrounding communities providing fi-

nancial resources and releasing their employees to local schools and non profits. We are fortunate to receive funds from the company, but more important is the new hired engineers who come to Restore and volunteer their time in our Homework Center. In our after-school Homework Center, the Phillips 66 volunteers and other community volunteers provide all the tutoring and support to the youth during the hour or more

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Volunteering Can Be Fun and Fulfilling, continued from page 1



Saturday Cooking Class

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Saturday's Cooking Class

volunteered also benefited because they got to see how money alone is not the only answer to inner city problems. The hours they spent talking, laughing and sharing with our boys made a difference. Hopefully their experience with Restore contributed to the men's personal and spiritual development especially in areas such as self-fulfillment, and dependence on God to lead them and make their time with use valuable and meaningful. I think our kids made a difference in their lives because a group of them are returning to help fix up the gym and office and will commit to training so they can spend more time mentoring some of our kids. Knowing that they made a positive impact on some of our kids must have been an emotionally uplifting experience for them. Restore is developing a volunteer model that seems to fit a multitude of lifestyles and interests. We realize that as a volunteer people must be able to prioritize their schedules in order to devote time for the activities and events that benefit our members. We acknowledged that many of you who want to offer your time are conscientious, honest and hardworking individuals. Our model wants to honor your time by offering one day events, a week or even a month of volunteering at Restore. Who knows, maybe after spending some time with our kids, you may want to come back again and

again. I encourage you to get in touch with us and have a conversation about how you can spend an impactful time with our young people. These are just a few reasons why volunteering is important. Not only does it bring hope and happiness to our kids, but it also leads to spiritual and personal growth in you. It is an experience that cannot be contained by mere words but must be experienced.

Getting the most out of volunteering: (The below section was taken from an Internet article; www.helpguide.org/life/volunteering)

- You're donating your valuable time, so it's important that you enjoy and benefit from your volunteering. It's important to make sure that your volunteer position is a good fit and to communicate with the people you're working with in the volunteer organization.
- **Ask questions.** You want to make sure that the experience is right for your skills, your goals, and the time you want to spend. If you have any questions, be sure to speak up. Sample questions to your volunteer coordinator might address your time commitment, if there's any training involved, who you will be working with, and what to do if you have questions during your experience.
- **Make sure you know what's expected.** Before starting, make sure you are comfortable with the organization, know what is expected, and understand the time commitment. Consider starting small so that you

don't over commit yourself at first. Give yourself some flexibility to change your focus if needed.

- **Don't be afraid to make a change.** Speak up if your experience isn't what you expected. Don't force yourself into a bad fit. Talk to the organization about changing your focus or consider looking for another match.

- **Enjoy yourself.** Most importantly, make sure you're having fun! The best volunteer experiences benefit both the volunteer and the organization. If you're not enjoying yourself, ask yourself why. Is it the tasks you're performing? The people you're working with? Or are you uncomfortable simply because the situation is new and familiar? Pinpointing what's bothering you can help you decide how to proceed.



Restore Alumni Volunteering



Executive Director's Message, continued from page 1

of homework. The Homework Center would not exist without our volunteers. It's not just nice, it's essential.

Another group that has become important to us is our recent graduates. They are in colleges or are working and they still find time to volunteer the days we are open. You can see them at the sign in table, organizing games in the gym, updating our records, and doing the everyday tasks that help the day run smooth. Because of them, Ximena and I can spend quality time with the kids who show up at our meetings. Peter Clayton, our bike club advisor is teaching the boys bike repairs every Friday. They are changing tires, adjusting spokes, and learning the basic in bicycle

repairs. Peter is bringing in another adult who owns a local bike shop to come and provide a workshop. We just completed our first trip and plan to participate in the "Tour of Elizabeth" in May. Hopefully the bike club will do two trips per month until November. Two recent volunteer efforts were a men's group from Zarephath Christian Church who came to Restore on Tuesdays during the month of March to organized games, eat with the boys and do devotions.

Tim and Ling Chia from the Chinese Christian Church in Parsippany were at our last Saturday cooking class. They guided the middle school boys in the art of preparing and cooking Chinese food for all

of us to eat.

The act of volunteering is an expression of commitment to the Restore community, and that commitment has value to our members and their families, the City of Elizabeth and I will be bold to say to the State of New Jersey. Second, the benefit of the services provided by our volunteers may differ in fundamental ways from services offered by professional staff since the motivation to serve may be different. Peter was born and raised in Elizabeth; he is a member at Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. In retirement, he wanted to give back to his community in ways that are meaningful to him and to our members. Our recent high school graduates offer a

unique benefit because they have much in common with our members (age, race, economic background or experience) than does the professional staff. Third, our volunteers expand the base of community support for Restore by making the work of Restore transparent to the community. In doing this, volunteers provide Restore with word-of-mouth publicity and have the potential to cultivate a broader base of supporters for Restore and its mission. And, of course, in addition to these benefits, volunteers expand Restores' capacity to deliver services to our kids and their families and to the City of Elizabeth.

**- Linwood,
Executive Director**

Interim Program Director's Message

Volunteering plays a very important role at Restore Ministries

Thanks to our volunteers we are able to provide help and services to our children.

Our volunteers are the right hand to our program and they in partnership with us allow the program to work successfully.

Spiritual: A Restore, alumni, Richard Patino- and his team of men have brought the Word of God, testimonies and also with sports and games. They provided fun and a good memories. With their affection and dedication, they have contributed joy and happiness to our children, young adults volunteers and staff. We hope other Church groups continue to help us just as

this wonderful group from ZCC church have done.

Academic: The volunteers that tutor the Restore kid's everyday play a huge part in the continued education of our youth. On Mondays we have Lisa from Phillips 66 and Mrs. Judy Winter, on Tuesdays Ethan and Amanda from Phillips 66, and on Thursdays Johnny from Phillips 66. Their patience and sharing their knowledge with our children is appreciated and they help in the success our kids have in school.

Technology and multimedia: Angela Hargrove provides incredible support to the administrative staff. She brings her professionalism and very gentle care toward each youth. She has

earned their trust and affection. We all enjoy her presence.

All areas: My young adult volunteer group: Jovan (Sport Activities / Security), Henry (Sport activities / Chores), Amirah (Office assistant), and Amir (Cook assistant). As you can see, this group is very special to me because they work with me on a daily basis. Although they are young they follow my direction and they become role models for Restore's children and teenagers.

We all work together towards one common goal and that's to continue to be a strong team that will help our kids succeed. I can go on and on about all the wonderful ways the all our



***Ximena & Young Adult Volunteers
(L-R) Amir, Jovan, Amirah,
Joey and Henry***

volunteers contribute to Restore Ministries. I'm very pleased with their work ethic and all the continued help that they give. A special thanks to all who volunteer, support and pray for our Restore program, students and staff. God bless you.

- Ximena Carrasco

RESTORE AT A GLANCE

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WEB!!!

DONATE!!!

WWW.RESTOREKIDS.ORG

*We will be honored by your presence to our
Fall Annual Banquet. Date will be announced...*



Student Profile: Tre'Quan Freeman



*Realizing Potential...
Maximizing
Achievement*

I'm Trequan Freeman I have been a member at Restore for seven going on eight years. My experience in Restore has been great. Before I came to Restore I was in a public school and things weren't working out. I was getting into trouble almost every day and I was getting suspended every other week. Then one day my cousin invited me to restore. At first I was uncomfortable, then I got to know everyone and I found out that they were loving and caring people.

After one year of restore they took me out of my public school and put me into a private school. I was uncomfortable the first week. Then Mr. Bagby sat down with me and told that things was going to be okay. Because he showed me he cared and wanted the best for me, I stopped getting into trouble.

One of the people who has been a help and personal support was my mentor and sponsor, Gary Reece. Gary believed in me from the start. When Restore was no longer able to pay my school tuition, Gary took over sponsorship to help me continue my education at a non-public high school.

I have recommended most of my friends to Restore and all of them still attend. We love Restore and now being in high school, we help out the younger ones who attends Restore.

_Tre'Quan Freeman