

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

College for hiring college students to work at Restore as a part of the student's financial aid package. Individuals have given through the Community Foundation of New Jersey. And for all those who participated in our fundraisers, the Generosity Series 5K race/walk, our annual dinner, and our end of the year appeal we thank you.

I'm hoping I made my point, that Restore is not a one man (Linwood) operation. It takes community, leadership, vision and passion to accomplish our goals. I would like to add you to the list of those whom I am thankful for.

Because of you, I am able to connect Richard to donors who will help him consider what it

will mean for him if he pursues a career in actuary science. A donor sponsored Anthony and his father at the Camden Aquarium for his first hands on introduction to marine biology. The leadership at Springfield Presbyterian Church increased their 2016 donation to help the families of six with tuition to St Mary's of the Assumption High School in Elizabeth. Lena Willis Fund increases their 2016 donation so Restore can hire a part time youth worker. Another donor's family ask their family and friends to give to Restore as their Christmas present. So many of you respond again and again to the everyday, spiritual and financial needs of Restore. I am very thankful that you are in

the lives of our kids and their families. You help to make Restore possible. You have made a real difference for so many. November 29, 2016 is Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 to jump start individual's giving of time, resources and money to non-profits they care about. It comes at a perfect time for most non-profits that are seeking end of the year funds. I am asking you all to take five minutes to give an extra financial gift between \$25-\$250 to Restore. When? Please give this month by Tuesday November 29th. How? Give online Go to www.guidestar.org In the search engine put in either Restore Ministries, New Jersey or our EIN 52-1922292

Then follow the directions to support this organization. You can also send a paper check by filling out the enclosed reply note. All checks are made out to "Restore Ministries, Inc". Why? Our work continues and we need your prayers and financial support. We have grown to 54 with 30 children and teenagers attending at least 3 times per week. Please go to www.guidestar.org Put in 52-1922292 in the search engine and make a gift now. Every financial gift is appreciated and will be use to further our mission. Thank you, Linwood Bagby <https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>



PARENT'S MESSAGE



Restore Ministries has become a huge part in my family and I'm very grateful for all the wonderful memories and new opportunities my children now have.

I first heard about restore from my oldest daughter, Michelle, she started off volunteering for her high school community service. She mentioned that it would be great for the kids to go. Shortly after I heard nothing but great news about Restore.

My girls, Nicole and Eveneser, were so taken by the program they won't miss a day now.

As a parent you want nothing but the best for your kids. That's what Restore is, the best! Restore has allowed my children to be a part of something big. To explore the world a little more, to interact with different kids, to

engage in various activities that enhance their lives, to place roots and impact others. I came to this country to have better opportunities in life and for my children to succeed. I haven't mastered English and I've fought to be where I am.

By attending Restore my kids are becoming well rounded young ladies, learning that while things may get tough there is always a way!

Restore has become home to my girls. A place where they feel safe and comfortable. Somewhere they can learn and grow and that's all a parent can really ask for.

Manuel Ramos

Give your hands to Serve and your hearts to Love.

Mother Teresa

SERVING URBAN YOUTH

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5

Realizing Restore Purpose



"Irrigating Deserts"

The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts. C. S. Lewis

There are plenty of "positive youth development" articles, workshops and seminars some free while others with a price tag. Creating positive outcomes, giving youth a

voice in their organizations that serve them, implementing strategies that aim to involve youth, being around for the long run, strengthening parents and community involvement and focus on collaboration and partnerships are the fundamental values I encountered at all the training I've received. Here, we do our best

to implement all of these aspects. In youth development we not only help young people avoid problems and dangers, we really want children and adolescents to thrive and be active shapers of their own future. Society generally views youth as a problem or at risk. One of our primary mission is to identify at risk students and give them what they need to finish high school and to continue their education after graduation. At our 5K fundraiser in June, the host mentioned Restore and said we work with at risk children to prevent them from dropping out of school. My teenagers who were participating in the race were offended that anyone would categorize them at potential dropouts.

Continued on page 2

STUDENT'S PROFILE: Nicole Ramos



My name is Nicole Ramos and I'm 11 years old. I'm in the 6th grade and I attend Elizabeth Public School. I've been a member of Restore for about two years. I came to learn about Restore through my sister. She was volunteering for The Restore Summer Program. She saw that I wasn't doing much with my summer and invited me to come and I'm glad I did!

I've become fairly involved with Restore. So much so that in this years banquet I was recognized as a future leader. I'm typically a shy person and the more I come to Restore the more I feel I come out of my shell. Restore has become a place where I don't have to worry. Whether it be excelling in my academics or reign supreme in sports there is always a place for me here.

I like to share stories about Restore to my friends and I caught the interest of two of them, Marco and Dave. The first time they came they loved it! They have so much fun here now. We all play together and help each other out. While Dave still comes, Marco hasn't been able to come as often, we all miss him, he's really funny.

For the time that I have been coming to Restore I have grown a lot. I have learned so much and I'm given help and resources to achieve excellence. Who wouldn't want that? I know high school will be challenging but not as much because I have the help of Restore, my extended family!

Nicole Ramos

Realizing... Potential... Maximizing... Achievement...



HS. Leaders' field trip to Philadelphia



At Annual Banquet



"Irrigating Deserts"

Continued from page 1

"We're going to college!" they boldly proclaimed. So even though these teenagers have membership in an organization whose mission is to keep them in school and go on to college or trade school, they do not identify with being potential dropouts. They see themselves as potential college students. I'm wondering if we should redefine our mission to reflect how our teens see themselves and not how the funders and adults see them?

Instead of fixing our young people, why not acknowledge them for who they are, the gifts, talents and insights they bring to our organizations. The Search Institute (www.search-institute.org) calls this way of thinking and doing with youth "building assets". In other words, "What are we looking for

when we interact with young people?" Not the no's. No smoking, no drugs, no early sex, no poor attitudes. When we see a child or teen enter our homes, places of worship, schools or organizations do we see skills, motivation, personalities, etc.? We all want our youth to become productive and successful adults. But what will that look like? What types of organizations will emerge that will be able to engage children and teenagers over the years of their development?

It's going to take volunteers, resources, space, money, and determination from knowledgeable and passionate community leaders to get the job done. Leaders that are willing to build collaborative networks within society to curb the dangers and negative challenges faced by our youth, but

more importantly to change the very environments our young people call home. We have a unique opportunity to walk alongside our children and teenagers who have chosen to spend time at our programs and offer them something new, exciting and purposeful. We can get to know them, recognize and call out their gifts and talents and introduce them to networks of adults and organizations that will help them become healthy productive adults.

To be this kind of leader and to create organizations and programs that will go beyond fixing kids, we do need training, workshops, seminars and college degrees. We do need to collaborate more with each other. But most importantly, we have to listen to our young people.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Making it Happen, One Step at a Time"

This was our 2016 annual banquet theme. It's more than a theme it's our reality to keep our program going and to persist until success is achieved. To do this, we apply a principal where we set a goal and work hard as a team utilizing all our efforts and resources. One Step at a Time is exactly what we do to change lives and I have to say that it wouldn't be possible without your support, participation and relationship as a big family: Students, Sponsors, Board Members, Volunteers, Parents and Staff.

Restore provides services to youth through our programs, our safe atmosphere, our reinforcing relationships, by teamwork and guiding success in their education for a better future. One Step at a Time, day to day, little by little we achieve rewarding results with our children and teenagers.

The smiles on their faces tells me they enjoy and are engaged in the activities. Forgetting whatever situation they are facing at home, at school or in the outside world. They come to Restore and feel safe, comfortable to trust us, and to let us know if something is wrong.

Every time they achieve a good grade in school, when they achieve an Honor Roll, or any other success it makes them feel proud and important, so do we. It lets us know we're doing something right. They know that they can count on us. That is what gives me the motivation to work hard and make things happen for them.

I would like to thank each of you for your cooperation in any way, for your generous support and for making Restore possible.

Ximena Carrasco



WE ARE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.RESTOREKIDS.ORG
FACEBOOK!!!
RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC
HTTPS://
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
RESTOREKIDS/



UPCOMING EVENTS:
* Thanksgiving Dinner
Family and Friends
November 22
• Holiday Celebrations
December 15

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Giving Thanks

I'm often asked whether there's any way those who love what we do and they see the terrific outcomes in the lives of our members can do more to help ameliorate hope filled futures for every child and teenager that spend time at our after school center. Something that really makes a difference.

You see, there is still plenty of work for Restore. Our high school leaders are mostly juniors and they will be transitioning into college, trade school or the work-

force at the end of their senior year. Our seventh through ninth graders are stepping up to leadership as Ximena, the program director, and her staff meet with them and begin the training and mentoring needed to grow them into new peer leaders. Even the elementary kids are busy getting plugged into the Restore community by faithfully doing their homework, gladly volunteering to do their assigned chores and purposefully inviting their friends to Restore.

There is much to be thankful. Through your generous

donations we now have a paid staff team. Ximena is full time and the rest of us work part time. I am thankful for the facility at Second Presbyterian Church. We have a spacious air conditioned and heated gym and a dining area. There is a room for Ximena's office and break out rooms for small groups to meet, fellowship and learn together. The kitchen is old but functional. The homework center, and special events are in the historic chapel with wood panel wall to wall carpeting.

Appreciation abounds for the many partnerships that have grown and deepen over the

past 22 years. The Institute of Music for Children's teaching artist who is the instructor for the video/multimedia club. Phillips66, at the Bayway Refinery, who releases their new hired to volunteer as tutors. The churches within the Presbytery of Elizabeth and all the other churches and the Christian community who pray, volunteer and financially support us. The Greater Elizabeth Chambers of Commerce for the training, networking, and encouragement. The City of Elizabeth's Community Block Grant for sponsoring staff salaries for our summer and year round programs. For Union County Community

Continued on page 4