

# RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

JANUARY– FEBRUARY, 2017

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

## "Moving Forward"

*"Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan."*

**Tom Landry**

Next year Restore will graduate our second largest class of high school seniors. We are putting a lot into them and our expectations are high. Richard, Jakub, Tony, Erik, Wilfredo, and John Paul came to Restore when they were in the sixth grade. They invited 20 high school students who are involve with Restore in one way or another. They are leaders and are ready for the next avenue in their lives. Their graduation goals are colleges and some are planning career paths.

We at Restore have a lot on our plate. There are no signs of slowing down in 2017. Ximena and I are constantly meeting formal and informally, implementing our program goals, supervising staff and recruiting volunteers. I am energized each time I step back and observe our progress. Since we expanded the group to elementary students three years ago, we have two groups moving to the next grade levels at Restore. Some of our elementary members are moving to middle school and in September 2017 five members will move into high school. In 2020, we want to have a membership of seventy-five with fifty students coming to Restore at least three times per week and be involved in more than one activity like the reading club and the weekly meetings.



*Leaders and future leaders members on a field trip to New York City*

Emily, Nicole and Jeremiah will be in high school in September. Their parents really appreciate the academic and personal growth they see in them. This summer they will come on board as junior staff in our summer enrichment/recreational program. At that time, they will officially join our sophomores and juniors as peer leaders. Ximena and I want to use the lessons we learned from working with our current high scholars and change on how we meet high school adolescence needs. We want to let them have time in the gym without the younger children. We want to have programs like a high school dance or movie night. We would like to invite people to lead discussions on dating, money and other issues that will be of interest to them.

To keep the present programs and expand into new territory, I already begun hiring and training new staff and volunteers. In this issue you will read about our staff team and the important role they have at Restore. We are looking for a food manager/cook. Our previous cook's full time job changed and gave her more hours so she had to step down. Michelle is leaving this month to

work with her mother in her new catering business. Michelle will continue in a limited capacity and help us with big projects and special events. That leaves an open youth worker/driver position. Matthew plans to continue with us as our other youth worker. Ximena's role is expanding as she is taking on supervision of staff and volunteers while implementing program design. I am providing less on site leadership and doing more funds development and bringing on board community partners. Our goal is to have a complete staff team and grow Restore in programs, services and enrollment.

We ask for your continual prayers as we move towards meeting our goals. Pray that we stay focused on building relationships with the children and teenagers who every day make Restore their after school program. Pray that in 2017 we will have parents energized in volunteering to be board members, chaperones, and helpers. Pray that we will find a good match in the cook and youth worker/driver positions. Pray that Ximena and I will continue to be a great team and a support for each other. Lastly, pray that God will lead us to the churches, organizations, funders and people that will pray for us and become financial partners.

**Linwood Bagby,**  
*Executive Director*



*Black History Month field trip to the movies, Hidden Figures*

## ***“Moving Forward”***



**We still have two more positions to fill, but I would like this time to introduce the current 2017 Restore team:**

**Linwood Bagby** is a native of West Deptford, New Jersey and received his BS from The College of New Jersey and his Masters from Kean University. Both degrees were in Speech and Language Pathology. He resides in Union, New Jersey. Linwood is currently employed as a Speech and Language Specialist with the Elizabeth Public Schools Board of Education. Linwood is active in the community where he works. In 1994, he started Restore to be a safe haven for kids and teens. Linwood was elected in 2012 to serve a one year term as the Moderator for the Elizabeth Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Now he serves the Presbytery as the chair of cabinet (the leadership team). Currently he fills his time at Restore and within the community and in church related organizations. Linwood is a ruling elder at Second Presbyterian Church, 1161 East Jersey Street, where the Restore program is located, he teaches Sunday school and is a member of the Church's Session (the governing board). His hobbies are reading fantasy and mystery novels, guitar, cooking and riding his bike.

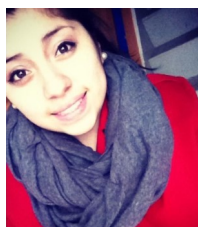


**Ximena Carrasco** is a native of Ecuador. She resides in Elizabeth, New Jersey and she has certificates in Youth Development from the Search Institute and Supervision and Leadership from the New York Center for Nonprofit. She began her tenure with Restore as the driver and the Program Director's assistant. Her natural gifts and talents with students and building programs were soon recognized and Ximena was given more responsibilities in which she proved successful. Ximena is currently the Program Director. She is responsible for coordinating all the programs and services of Restore and supervising and evaluating the employees and volunteers. She is an active member at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church. She is an active member of the women's group of "Marriages United in Christ Ministry" which is dedicated to help single women in distress. Her hobbies are : jogging, listening to music, watching movies and vacation.



**Matthew Steele** completed his first year at Restore. He is from Summit New Jersey and we were able to offer him employment because of a grant. Matthew graduated from La Salle University as a business major. He majored in Marketing and minored in Psychology. He splits his time between working at the YMCA in Summit and with us at Restore. Matthew is a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ. His hobbies are: playing board games, doing word searches, using the gym, and playing sports video games.

## *“Moving Forward”*



**Michelle Ramos** heard about Restore from a fellow high school student. She came to fulfill her high school community service hours. Michelle volunteered in her senior year and continued volunteering after she completed her mandatory hours. Upon graduating from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy public school in Elizabeth, NJ Michelle was asked to join our paid staff team. Michelle will be stepping down as a youth worker and will use her art and creativity for special projects and event when needed. She brings to Restore her creative talents in arts and her ability to connect to high school, middle grades and elementary students. She is a member of “Jesus is Lord Church” in Elizabeth where she is an active young adult leader. Her hobbies are painting and drawing as well as experimenting in the kitchen.

**Open Position: Food Manager/Cook:** Restore is looking for a creative person with organizational skills to be our food manager/cook. This position consists of no more than 20 hours per week. The right candidate will submit the monthly food menu, go shopping with Ximena or me and prepare snacks and meals during the days Restore is open.

**Open Position: Youth Worker/Driver:** Monday-Friday 3-8:30pm. Restore is looking for an adult who loves working with children and teens and can organize and carry out the vision of Restore. The person has to be available when the afternoon program operates and will be able to take members home in the company van. The youth worker will work directly and be supervised by the program director. She/He will be responsible for leading small and large group activities, supervise children and teenagers and help in the homework center. Jobs can include but are limited to: tutoring, helping with the newsletters, signing in students as they enter the building, chaperone field trips, helping with snacks and dinners, and taking and maintaining attendance.

## *Program Director’s Message*



*Holiday Celebrations*

I agree with Linwood that we were very busy in January and February. Every day we have to face challenges, achieve goals and handle the myriad of responsibilities to keep Restore going. In January, I organized a three day **Soccer Clinic**. I

coordinated and worked with the volunteer coaches, Giancarlo and Ronald. Children and teens loved it and are requesting for more sessions in March and April.

I also worked with the staff team to organize **incentives field trips** for our Honor Roll students. I plan on doing something special for our young scholars each school marking period. The first marking period trip was movie night for the younger members and for the peer and future peer leaders we went to Broadway to see "On Your Feet". Both trips were received very positively and we all had a fun time. Our next honor roll field trip will be the Ringling Broth-

ers and Circus in March. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Greenfield Family Fund, a total of twenty-six (students, staff and parents) were able to see Hidden Figures for our first Black History Month field trip.

**“FAITH IS TAKING THE  
FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN  
YOU DON’T SEE THE  
WHOLE STAIRCASE”**

*—Martin Luther King, Jr.*

I am planning these upcoming events:

**Valentine’s Dinner on February 13.** Camp Johnsonburg will share about summer camping and lead us in the evening activities. Parents, family members and you are invited to join us. Our first **Vocabulary Challenge** will be in



*Children practicing for vocabulary challenge*

March. Students are learning their synonyms and antonyms while playing bingo and concentration. In April, I will work with our Phillips66 volunteers for our **Annual Science Fair**.

I would like the 2 open positions filled soon. The cooperation of volunteers, the involvement of students’ parents, the support of our Board Members, and the generous support of our dear donors make Restore be possible.

Thank you,

*Ximena Carrasco*



## RESTORE AT A GLANCE



**RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.**  
SERVING URBAN YOUTH

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## Student's profile: Johanna



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

Hi, my name is Johanna Lucero. I am nine years old in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My favorite subject is writing. I am always learning new English words. My dad always praises me and tells me I do a good job in school. English is my second language.

My cousin, Dave, told me about Restore. I began attending in November of 2016. I was kind of lonely at home because my English was keeping me from making new friends. I started going because I needed help with my homework and Dave said I could make new friends. Restore is very fun and I look forward to attending everyday. I have a lot of friends now.

I want my friends from school to join Restore's program. I have two friends that I am going to invite. I have not done so yet but I will soon. I hope to stay with Restore through the end of High School.

Hola, me llamo Johanna Lucero. Tengo 9 años, estoy en 4to grado en la Escuela Primaria Antonio Pantoja 27. Mi asignatura favorita es escritura, porque como tengo mucho que aprender, siempre estoy aprendiendo nuevas palabras en inglés. Además, mi padre siempre me elogia y me dice que hago un buen trabajo. Inglés es mi segundo idioma.

Mi primo, Dave, me habló de Restore. Empecé en noviembre de 2016. Me sentía sola en mi casa porque mi poco inglés me impedía hacer amigos. Comencé a asistir a Restore entonces porque necesitaba ayuda con mis tareas y mi primo me decía que ahí podía hacer nuevos amigos. Restore es muy divertido y espero ansiosa asistir a Restore todos los días. Ahora tengo muchos amigos!

Quiero que mis amigos de la escuela se unan al programa de Restore. Tengo dos amigos que voy a invitar. No lo he hecho todavía pero lo hare pronto. Espero podamos quedarnos con Restore hasta el final de la preparatoria.

*Johanna*