

RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

“RESILIENCE”

“If you can’t fly, then run, if you can’t run, then walk, if can’t walk, then crawl,
but whatever you do, keep moving forward.” *_(The Reverend, Doctor MLK. Jr)_*



Executive Director’s Message

*Pressure, pressure, pushing
down on me. (David Bowie)*

I can’t believe we are still dealing with COVID. Beyond basic concerns such as safety, a clean environment, enjoyable activities, and trained staff team, we are still dealing with the negative effects of the pandemic on the Restore community. In the past three years, members in our Restore family have experienced loss of jobs, academic learning loss, sickness, hospitalization, isolation, fear, and death of a close friend or a loved one. It hasn’t been easy on us, parents, volunteers, and students.

Because of your faithful prayers, care, and financial support, Restore is resilient. Here are some of the things you made possible; Moving to our new program site at 42 Broad Street to meet in person once weekly. Offering amazing and cutting edge virtual

learning modules on justice and community service. Maintaining a community atmosphere by celebrating honor rolls, birthdays, and doing fun games together. Returning to attending live theater, and our arts enrichment month-long summer day camp was successful and very well attended. In August, eighteen of us, students, parents, alumni, donors, and community leaders went to Biloxi Mississippi for mission community service projects. Yes, it is because of YOU that we are able to remain present in the lives of our

members and deliver transforming services, projects, and programs.

But YOU are needed more than ever as we face the challenges of growing beyond our pre COVID attendance. Help us reach more children and teenagers in Restore, both in person and virtually.

Restore Ministries is a positive influence in the lives of our youth and in the overall community by giving children and teenagers a safe place to go after school and offer extended learning opportunities outside of the classroom. However, recruiting and retaining students during the pandemic and now with its continual resurgence isn’t easy.

We are hiring two part time staff in 2023. The first person, if all goes right within the hiring process should come on board in mid March. Generous grants from Provident Bank Foundation, The Westfield Foundation, and the Presbytery of the Northeast of

New Jersey are restricted for programs that will help us overcome the variety of obstacles we have to navigate through in order to increase membership and maintain program safety and quality. We cannot use these added funds for salary or overhead.

Your journey with us is an important resource and funding for the new staff team. The new staff will work closely with Ximena, Restore’s Program Director. One of the tasks of the new role is to meet with school officials and parents about what they would like to see in an after school program and to visit successful after school programs to get a better idea of what does and doesn’t work. Understanding what the community wants in an after-school program and figuring out the best way to meet those needs is essential in the overall success of Restore.

Over the last 28 years you have proven our importance in the community and in the lives of our members and their families. With your help, we can expand to the hearts, minds, and lives of the many who will return after a long COVID nightmare and we will meet new students, parents and volunteers wanting to participate in the Restore community.

Thank you for your faithfulness to the vision and work that you are making possible for many in Elizabeth and its surrounding neighborhoods.

_Mr. Linwood Bagby

HYBRID AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Monday In- Person
3 to 6:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday
Virtual
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Program site address:
The Snyder Academy
42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

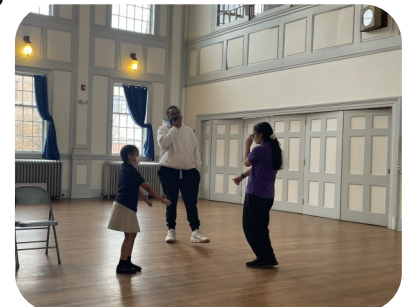


College Alumni's Profile



My name is Jerimiah. I am 19 years old and alumni of Restore. In Restore, you gain memorable experiences from meeting new companions to receiving guidance and advice for school and life. Restore has always been essential to my life, mainly in school. I wasn't doing well academically, and it was tough after discovering that I had been diagnosed with ADHD. It made sense why I was not as attentive and alert and could not remember lessons during class. However, while attending Restore, my grades slowly began to rise because I help during homework time from people well-versed in different academic subjects. I am currently attending college at Union College and work at Restore as well as a youth counselor.

Jerimiah



Visit us on the web!

<https://restorekids.org/>

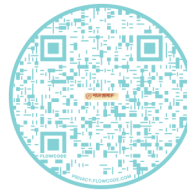
Student's Profile



My name is Joshua, and I am 14 years old. I am in 8th Grade. I have been attending Restore since I was about six years old. I learned about Restore from my older brother since he would always be there while I was home. Their field trips also seemed fun, so I begged my mom if I could go, and she eventually let me when I became old enough to attend.

To me, Restore is just a fun place to go. You meet many unique people, make friends, and play games. Restore has influenced me in many ways, such as not being shy or afraid around people, allowing myself to open up, and being kind to others. I will continue to attend Restore throughout high school because I feel there is a lot more for me to learn, and Restore is the right place that can help me with that.

— Joshua



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

Program Director's Message



"Honor the Struggle and Move Forward"

Its been a challenging year. The transition to our new site is that it has limited space for physical activities and sports. The COVID drop in student attendance impacts the dynamics of the programs offered.

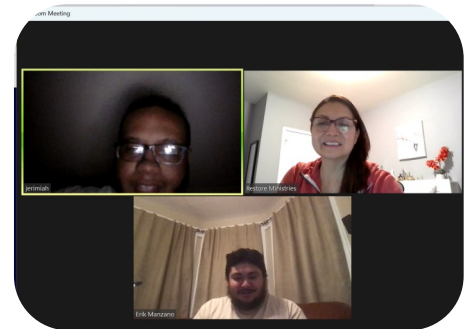
Despite all the struggles, we have remained positive, flexible, and willing to adapt to change. Staying flexible with an open mind is important. We are a small team of staff and volunteers so all of us learn to work outside of our job

descriptions to achieve the goals. Achievements and improvements are made through teamwork. We are constantly adjusting.

When COVID struck we adapted by creating virtual and in person programs. We work hard to meet youth and parents' expectations by creating programs in a safe and healthy atmosphere.

Mondays is our face-to-face meetings, where homework help and the Arts in all forms (visual, arts and craft, performance, digital, and more) happens. Currently, everyone is learning Dance and Fashion Design. The Institute of Music for Children provides the art activities.

Tuesday is virtual. The students sign in at their homes. They call themselves Students United for Justice (SUFJ). SUFJ is an eight week learning module. This academic year students were engaged with issues such as Food Insecurity, Disability Justice and Access, and Environmental Justice.



The learning modules are taught by Incredible Days Group.

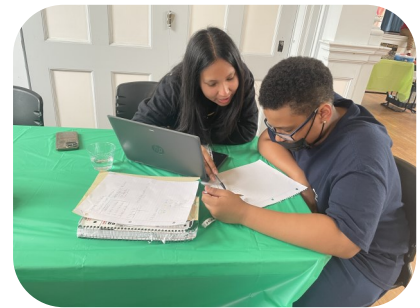
We end the week with Gratitude Thursdays. The focus remains on homework help. We also emphasize relationship building and fun social and educational activities. Our High school and college students lead those group activities.

Restore has a set of unique programs to offer to children, teenagers and young adults. We are focused on increasing our impact.

I want to express my gratitude for your continuous support.

— Ms. Ximena Carrasco

RESTORE AT A GLANCE



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **College Coaching**
March 13. Financial Aid/FAFSA workshop. 5:00pm
 - ◆ **College Tours**
March 25 Seton Hall University
April 29 Montclair State University
 - ◆ **Easter Dinner**
Monday, April 3. At 5:30 PM.
- 42 broad St. Elizabeth, NJ. 07201

CONTACT US

Email: info@restorekids.org
Restore1161@gmail.com

Tax-deductible donations can be made by scanning the QR code and visiting our Donate page, or by mailing a check to:
P.O. BOX 29
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207



Donate!

<https://restorekids.org/>
<https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>
Instagram: [@restore_ministries_inc](https://www.instagram.com/restore_ministries_inc)

Elementary Profile



My name is Mariah, and I am 8 years old. At Restore, I like to see my friends, see new people, and do fun things with my friends. I also want to go on trips to see movies and plays and go bowling.

__Mariah



The Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown



INCREDIBLE DAYS



ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER

NAACP



Visit us on the web!

<https://restorekids.org/>