



RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

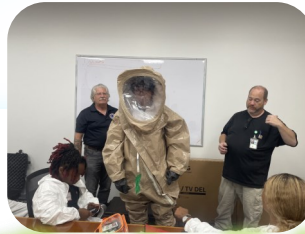
SERVING URBAN YOUTH



Arts, Community, Enrichment A.C.E Summer Program Update

July - August 2023

Volume 15, Issue 4



Field Day at Environmental Protection Agency - Edison, N.J.



Environmental Justice



ACE TEAM



"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes



"Adopt a Park" Union County Parks and Recreation



World of Art





American Dream Mall



Roller Skating



Liberty Science Center



July-August Birthday Celebration



I Play America



AMC Movie Theater

Bowling at Jersey Lanes



You made summer a good time for staff, campers, and our youth summer workers. Registration at Arts Community Enrichment (ACE), Restore's summer day camp, was at full capacity. Sebastian, who is going into the fifth grade, personifies the enthusiasm that has surrounded ACE this summer. Specifically, Sabastian's school had given him a list of summer camp opportunities, but he told his mom, "I don't need this because I'm going to ACE." Forty-five other elementary and high school students from Elizabeth and Linden made the same decision. Additionally, four college students from Union College of New Jersey (formerly Union County Community College) signed on as ACE staff.

Overall, the student summer work crew consisted of four 14 to 15-year-olds and six students aged 16-20. These student workers completed various jobs based on their age and experience. All of them were instrumental in small and large group activities, chaperoning field trips, helping with paperwork, and as great role models. Despite past devastations brought on by the COVID pandemic, the experiences of this summer underscored that Restore is not only recovering but also thriving.

The theme this summer was "Environmental Justice: Caring for Ourselves, Each Other And God's Earth."

On Mondays, the summer campers demonstrated interest in the environment, justice, activism, and community service. Led by the Restore staff, Ximena, Marc Anthony, and Jerimiah, the campers enjoyed connecting Tuesday morning with the staff from Union County Parks and Recreation. Time was spent in service and learning with the Recreation's "Adopt A Park" initiative at Warinanco Park in Roselle, NJ. Learning about their county park empowered our young people and taught them that much can be accomplished through teamwork and hard work.

A new partner this summer was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Yes, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency! Initiated by a new volunteer, Mary Beth, a field trip to EPA headquarters in Edison, NJ was planned by her husband, who is an EPA employee. The day included lunch, and what started out as a site visit for campers expanded into a full day of activities. Wednesday, July 19th was an engaging day that included dressing out in level B Tyvek; decorating Tyvek suits to take home; a laboratory demonstration with Flubber; a demonstration of air monitoring equipment; and a robotics demonstration.

Every day brought learning, wonder, and excitement. Every Tuesday afternoon, we returned to the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center for large and small group community-building activities and arts and crafts. Activities every Wednesday morning and all-day Thursday revolved around teaching artists who introduced campers to graphic design, dance, guitar, and the visual arts. Wednesday afternoons were our half-day field trips to the Newark Museum, bowling, and an AMC movie. Fridays included all-day field trips. Campers were thrilled to visit IPlay America, South Amboy Roller Skating Rink, Liberty Science Center, and our Summer Closing Family and Friends Picnic.

A special thanks to the ones that made this possible:

- Elizabethport Presbyterian Center
- City of Elizabeth Community Development Block Grant
- The Westfield Foundations
- County of Union Department Human Resources
- County of Union HEART Grant (Historic Education Arts Reaching Thousands)
- The Provident Bank Foundation
- Greenfield Family Feud
- Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church
- Presbyterian Church of Westfield
- Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge
- Individual Donors!

Our staff will be on a much-needed break during the last weeks of August. We'll reconvene during the first two weeks of September to pray, plan, and prepare for our fall opening. Ximena and I come into the new school year with three new staff: Jeremiah, Marc Anthony, and Antoine. This year, our goal is to reach out to 100 students. To accomplish this, we will continue in Midtown at the Snyder Academy, expand to the Bayway Success Center to Mravlag Manor, and the Elizabethport neighborhood at the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center. We ask for your prayers that negotiation and partnership plans continue to move forward.

Thank you always for your faithful presence in the working and ministry at Restore.

Linwood Bagby, Founder and CEO

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