

RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

Expanding Horizons

Executive Director's Message



I have good news to share! I visited Restore's new after-school site at the Arabella Miller Recreation Center in the Elizabethport section of Elizabeth, NJ. Eight elementary and middle school students were eating chicken fingers and fries, sharing in group activities with staff, and enjoying time together. This cohort is Restore's promising new small group. I request your prayers as Antione and Ximena, Restore staff, lead discussions, and meet with the parents/guardians of this newest Restore cohort.

In February, the staff went to the Prudential Center to see a jam-packed tournament of the HBCU basketball teams. The game started with Grambling State vs. Jackson State, followed by Howard University vs. Hampton University. All including staff has a great day together. Restore staff, Antoine and Ximena, are plan-

ning two more field trips this month, and are encouraging Restore members to "Bring a Friend." This initiative encourages Restore members to invite their friends who will be invited to return to Restore for Thursday's after-school program.

How are your gracious donations being used? Specifically, March and April donations will help Restore bring arts and cultural programs to Arabella Miller Recreation Center. Our vendor for these programs, The Institute of Music for Children, currently provides teaching artists to our Snyder Academy site, located in Midtown Elizabeth. Your continued financial support of Restore shapes the next generation,

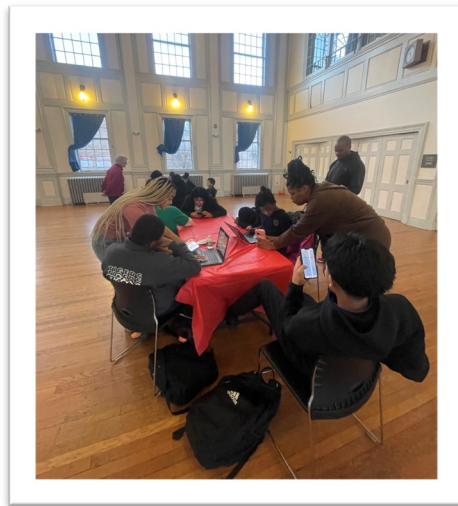
makes them happy, and encourages their interest in the arts. We are so thankful for you, and sincerely hope you realize the extent to which you positively impact the lives of so many.

More good news: we're advance planning for the summer months. Specifically, Restore has begun planning for Arts Community Enrichment (ACE) summer day camp, which will happen throughout the month of July 2024. Our goal: 100% capacity with 40 campers and summer jobs for 10 teenagers. With your help, we also hope to provide five Restore members with full scholarships to a summer program at Johnsonburg Camp.

In summary, the entire Restore community, students, parents, volunteers, and staff are thankful for you and the sharing of your goodwill and resources. Our partnership is

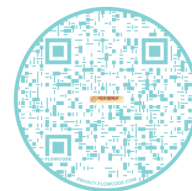
"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

- Anne Frank



sincerely valued and appreciated.

_Linwood Bagby



RESTORE AT A GLANCE



Alumni, current Restore Participants and Staff at Christmas Concert



Community Service Students Leading Group Activities

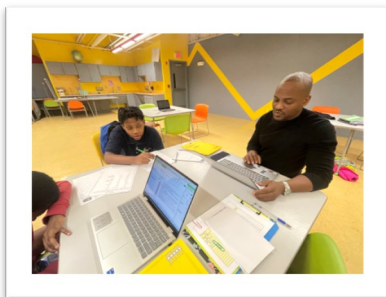


Mr. Dayne Chance, Executive Director and Ms. Erika Fuentes, Student Services Specialist Union College Financial Aid Department

Fairleigh Dickinson University Welcoming Restore High School Students to its Tour



Antoine Nelson - Welcome to the Team! *Project Coordinator & Youth Worker*



Meet Antoine Nelson, our newest addition to the Restore Ministries team. Hailing from Elizabeth, New Jersey, Antoine is a graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in Criminal Justice & Sociology. His commitment to positive change led him to actively engage in reintegration community efforts throughout New Jersey. Antoine's impact is profound, particularly in his hometown. As a mentor and facilitator, he has equipped students of all ages with essential skills. Antoine's lived experience as a youth includes struggles with the law, which has fueled his dedication to young people and families facing similar challenges.

For the past decade, Antoine has served as President and Program Director of Sons of Someone, Inc., a youth mentoring program in Elizabeth. His selfless guidance has empowered countless young individuals to overcome obstacles. Recently, he led a group of 30 high school students on a three-day, eight university tour, which inspired this group to pursue higher education. Antoine Nelson, a community leader and role model, brings a wealth of experience to Restore Ministries, furthering our mission of upliftment and empowerment in Elizabeth.

Welcome, Antoine!

Visit us on the web!

<https://restorekids.org/>



Student's Profile: Ava

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



Ava, an eight-year-old third-grader at Elizabeth Public school, has been attending Restore since October 2023. She was initially introduced to the program by her cousin, Antoine. Based on her experience so far, Ava believes that Restore is much more than just a place to receive homework help. For Ava, Restore lives into its name and 'brings back life' - a sentiment with which she deeply resonates.

For Ava, Restore's influence extends beyond academic support. It's a sanctuary where challenges are met with solutions and confusion with clarity. When asked how Restore has impacted her, Ava highlights all the help she receives when struggling with homework. At the same time, Restore isn't just about completing assignments. In fact, Restore also nurtures Ava's intellectual growth and her self-confidence.

Despite being a relative newcomer, Ava has already invited others to join Restore. Whether those whom Ava has extended an invitation come or not, her commitment is steadfast. When asked if she plans to continue attending Restore throughout high school, Ava responds emphatically, "Yes, definitely!"; For Ava, Restore is not just a temporary fix but a lifelong resource for growth and support.

In the bustling world of education, where challenges abound and support can be scarce, Ava's journey with Restore serves as a beacon of resilience and community. As she navigates through her academic years, one thing remains certain: Ava will thrive based on her own determination combined with the unwavering support of Restore Ministries.

Program Director's Message

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." - Arthur Ashe

We closed the 2023 calendar year with Holiday celebrations and a small, meaningful Christmas party, which children and parents enjoyed. Also, children and staff attended the delightful Christmas concert with the Raritan Valley Choral Society at the Church of Saint Charles Borromeo in Skillman, NJ., courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Reece. Thanks to the care and support from you, 2023 was another successful year!

2024 is well underway and Restore's schedule has been busy! For starters, high school seniors have been coached and equipped with tools and strategies that will ease their transition to college. For example, decoding the FAFSA application is just one of these tools. Thanks to the collaborative efforts with and the knowledge shared by the Financial Aid Department at Union College, parents/guardians and students learned about FAFSA and received important financial information at two presentations. Expanding the horizons of Restore's future college applicants, Antoine and I have coordinated a monthly tour to different university

campuses. Most recently, eight students toured the Florham Campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Restore continues a virtual session on Tuesdays with Students United for Justice, and is appreciative of the guidance from Incredible Days Group staff. For example, the winter eight-week cycle, which ended with a Discussion Panel, focused on Protesting and Nonviolent Resistance. The spring cycle is underway. Visual Arts Sessions happen every Monday with staff from the Institute of Music for Children. Activities include hands-on projects that concentrate on diverse cultural traditions, and emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion. The spring cycle of Visual Arts Sessions will conclude with a cultural event that exhibits and showcases the remarkable artwork created by all the participants. Additionally, during the month of March, "Bring a Friend" field trips are taking place, which allow the friends of Restore members to receive help with homework, and enjoy fun afternoons with a variety of recreational activities. Finally, planning for the ACE Summer Program has begun. Specifically, we're meeting with the parents/guardians of students who have expressed interest in participating of the summer jobs and scholarship programs.



As you can see, Restore actively lives out its mission through its work with young people and the community. Equipped with optimism, hard work and, most importantly, your kind support and prayers, Restore transforms and positively impacts many lives.

- Ximena Carrasco

RESTORE AT A GLANCE



HYBRID AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday In - Person
3 to 6:00 pm
Snyder Academy
42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Tuesday Virtual
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Thursday In - Person
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Arabella Miller Recreation
Center - 161-163 First St.
Elizabeth NJ. 07206

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

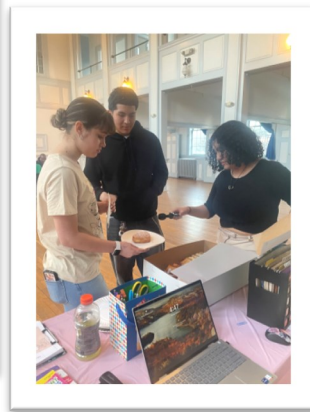


Donate!

<https://restorekids.org/>
<https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>
 Instagram: @restore_ministries_inc

Big Thank You to our Volunteers & Community Service Team!

Welcome to the Team!
 Anwar Hargrove
 Community Service time approved by
 Graybar, Carteret, NJ.



Funded by the Union County Board of County Commissioners



UNION COUNTY
 We're Connected to You!



The Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown



NAACP



ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER

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