

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC.

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"ON BEING 14"



Idalis and Brian at the new "foosball" table

At age 14, "Hope springs eternal"; "You'd forget your head if it weren't screwed on"; "Boys are soooo immature" and "Girls are impossible to figure."

Fourteen going on fifteen is a time of expanding horizons: high

school, outside commitments and unsupervised time. One demands more privacy to examine confused feelings in solitude. A teen's "I-could-care-less" mask hides uncertainty.

One's body is not quite right, deficient in height, weight, muscles, curves, skin,

puberty stage, looks and/or brains. Nose, feet or ears are too big. Where does one fit in socially: in-crowd, isolate, dork, brainiac, rebel, average kid. Whoever said: "freshmen are all hormones and feet" was more than half-right.

"Freshmen are all hormones and feet."

Early adolescence can be tumultuous. Body chemistry wildly ebbs and flows. One's mind "zones out" at inopportune times. Often the zone it lands on belongs to opposite-gendered eye candy. One is capable of parenthood, yet still governed by parental rules. Bedtime, curfew and your parents calling friends' parents-how embarrassing!

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Executive Director's Message

I was feeling quite helpless until the other adults in my world came to my aid. A high school teacher took me to The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) for a campus tour and Speech Pathology Department visit. She also advised me when to take the SAT and helped my parents and me with college applications. Concurrently, my youth pastor, Bob guided my steps toward

college by taking me to Christian schools in Philadelphia and Virginia.

I began my senior year clueless about the college search/application process. But, by November, I had visited three schools, registered for the SAT, filled out applications, secured references, and was working through the financial aid maze.

I worked at a manic pace but my efforts concluded

with acceptance into TCNJ's Speech Pathology Department.

Many urban youth don't understand the importance of college or other post-secondary education.



Trevon and Beltran at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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**Rafael and Michael at Seton Hall University's
“Meet the Team Day”**

Dreams still abound.
Romance flames.
Hearts break. Old
friendships give way to
new “best buds.”
Depending on the week,
friends are the best,
two-faced, the only ones
who understand. Or,
“Nobody understands
me!” Getting through the
day can be a breeze, a
drag, no problem or
“from hell.” And,
teachers... Forget it.

Everyone judges: mom,
dad, relatives, and
school/church/neighbor
types. So lame...they
can't remember having
zits, being embarrassed
to stand up in class, girl/
boy craziness, locker
room panic, hungering

for a lunch pal, feeling stupid, not thinking
it through.

Hard to keep it all straight: No smoking,
drugs, porn or SEX. Believe in God
(god?). Bring home only A's and B's.
Be responsible, admit when you're wrong,
tell the truth, get ready for college, get
involved, stay focused, watch personal
hygiene, choose friends carefully, write
thank you notes, keep your room/space
neat, help out, know that money doesn't
grow on trees... yada, yada. Adults are
so annoying!

The best thing about 14 is becoming 15.
One matures and takes comfort in old
wisdom: “Freshmen are those who don't
know that they don't know. Sophomores
are those who know that they don't know.
Juniors are those who don't know that
they know. Seniors are those who KNOW
that they know.” So, lighten-up on
fourteen year-olds. 365 days of being 14:
body raging, brain misfiring, soul
confused, spirit still hopeful, and insecurity
amok. Remember? How's a kid to
cope - with big feet no less!

***“Early
adolescence
can be
Tumultuous.”***



Mr. Derek Peters, New Brunswick guidance counselor at Restore's “College Night”

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Those who do “get it” often do not get useful support from family members, who never went to college. To reach college, most city teens need help from outside adults.

Because of class and race, Restore kids face the challenge of limited education and career options. These constraints tend to impact negatively

their employment, housing and chance at living well in our society. For urban males, marginal schooling and joblessness are connected



Restore youth at College Fair in Long Island

with incarceration and other pathologies. Our kids' adult transition can be bleak.

Restore helps city youth transcend barriers by working with their families to encourage and prepare teens for college and employment. This is why our youth ministry model includes computers, Internet access, the arts, the homework center, nonpublic school scholarships, pre-college programs and college and career workshops.

College may not be for everyone, but Restore works to get each member into education beyond high school.

I hope that the pictures and articles in this newsletter will inspire you to pray for us

and to make a generous end-of-year donation.

A winning formula:

***“Adult love + encouragement
=
youth ambition + success.”***

It is only through your support that we can implement long-term programs that motivate Restore youth to pursue hope-filled futures.

Linwood

Program Update: Refinery Day and College Night



Tutors from ConocoPhillips host Restore youth

On November 10 (a school holiday), 13 Restore youth with two chaperones visited ConocoPhillips (CP), our corporate partner, at its Linden refinery. Engineers from CP, who tutor at Restore, served as hosts. Our day included talks, videos, a tour, lunch, and one-on-one conversations.

The kids especially enjoyed the tour and speaking with CP personnel about their work. All were intrigued to learn about everyday products made from crude oil.

Later that day, we returned to Restore to set up and decorate for the evening college workshops and family dinner in which eleven parents participated.

Clinton Miller hosted a lively discussion for parents on being supportive of teens making plans for college. Derek Peters talked to 18 young people about what they need to know and do to get into college. Reverend Michael Granzen, pastor of Second Presbyterian

Church, and father of two, joined in the discussion.

Following these sessions, everyone gathered in the chapel to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal donated by Olympia Diner of Elizabeth. The food was delicious and plentiful and everyone enjoyed one another's company.

Throughout dinner, parents, teens and the speakers conversed about college. For example, Christele sat with Mr. Peters to discuss her college applications. After the meal, some parents helped clean up, others exchanged information, while a few challenged the kids to an energetic game of Ping-Pong.

This busy, yet fruitful day also stimulated long-term thinking. Carlos, who plans to be an engineer, is now eager to learn more about what it takes to work at ConocoPhillips. Brian and Shantonia inquired about CP internship opportunities. Matthew, a junior, read Mr. Peter's handouts several times and is planning to attend Restore's next college night.

Restore succeeds when students, staff, community volunteers and parents work together to nurture each member. Hence our motto:

***“Realizing Potential...
Maximizing
Achievement.”***



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Restore at a Glance



Our next Family Night is December 15 - 5:00 to 7:30 pm.

Come and join us!

Student Profile : Christele Maignan

My name is Christele Maignan and I'm a 17 year old senior at the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy in Elizabeth, NJ. For the past six years, my brother, my cousin and I have lived with my aunt, who is also my guardian. My parents live in Haiti, my native country.

I have several hobbies, but my main joy is "singing." I have been making "joyful noise" ever since I was eleven years old. I also enjoy reading. I'm very into action and suspenseful books.

When I was in middle school, I was introduced to Restore by Nancie Lorinston, who was attending the program. It's been five years since I



started coming here. And I want to say that Restore Ministries has really met my needs and has helped me accomplish my goals. Attending this program has also helped me mature

and become more organized.

Restore trips, special dinners, and spending 10-12 hours a week at this after school program have changed my whole perspective on certain things such as doing homework now my number one priority and how communicating with others can build strong relationships.

I want to thank Mr. Linwood Bagby and Mr. Gary Reece for this wonderful opportunity.

