

RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC.

Starting Over and Second Chance



Linwood and Phillips 66 volunteers with Kids at Homework Center

Watch a baby learning to walk - it is amazing how many times she tries and fails to pull herself up. Finally she stands! But now how to let go? She has many falls and near

misses before she can negotiate her environment with confidence. There is a powerful human drive to stand on one's own, but the child needs loving grownups to baby

proof the house, and to watch her to make sure she doesn't get hurt.

What happens if the child is often unsupervised, and really gets hurt, banging hard on a table or falling down stairs? She will learn to walk eventually, but will she ever develop of sense of trust and the self-esteem that allows her to keep exploring and striving, even in the face of repeated failures?

So many of our at-risk children live in harsh and unforgiving environments where they are not

protected as they try to learn and grow. The signs of failure are all around them - lack of adequate food, clothing and housing, joblessness, and adults who are often too downtrodden or over-worked to care for them. They go to schools where many teachers have given up on them

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Restore kids at Easter Egg Hunt

Executive Director's Message

Alex comes in and out of Restore. He is in constant conflict with staff and students. His troubled life extends into his school and family. Restore is a safe haven for him. Opposition happens mostly when Javier is in the Homework Center. He does not have enough homework, he forgets his books, he wants to wear his ear phones instead of doing

work. While most kids are on task most of the time, at staff meetings we asked "How long are we to put up with students who are consistently off task? When is enough, enough? Do the kids who continue with the same conflicts and take away from the ones who are doing the right thing during Homework Center?" The easiest thing to do is have a

three strikes and you are out of Restore rule. But, luckily, Restore is a faith based organization that looks for more excellent ways to show care and support to our members. We do have consequences for misbehaviors and yes, there are times we feel it is necessary to send kids home. But more important our desire is to give multiple opportunities for our members to make the

necessary changes in attitude and behaviors so they can stay with us and be influenced in positive ways by Restore.

We believe with the support of parents, Restore staff and the community, most kids will make better and healthy choices, graduate from high school and begin a smoother transition into adulthood.

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Starting Over and Second Chance

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NJIT TRIP
(L to R) Joshua, Ximena, Matthew, Tony, Richard and John Paul

“Winning is great, sure, but if you are really going to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose. Nobody goes undefeated all the time. If you can pick up after a crushing defeat, and go on to win again, you are going to be a champion someday.”
(Wilma Rudolph)

Many of them expect to fail. These kids have a “watch your back” attitude at all the times; they don’t have opportunities to try out their skills in a protected safe environment. While these youth are handicapped in some ways, at Restore we stress the philosophy that, “A man can fail many times, but he isn’t a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.” (John Burroughs). For example, a boy may complain that his teacher doesn’t seem to care if he fails a test. Our tutors tell him he still needs to master the material, and he should approach the teacher or others to help himself learn. He may not have anyone to cook him a nourishing meal when he gets home. But at Restore he can help Anwar in the kitchen and learn how to do it for himself, a skill that will serve him well in life and give him a realistic

sense of accomplishment.

The goal of Restore is to give these kids a secure safe place to develop with constant adult protection and support. Adults need to teach that failures are an integral part of becoming more successful. These kids need to know how to deal with failure and to learn from their mistakes, not by praising everything they do regardless of their effort but by giving them constructive guidance.

They still have the same drive to succeed that they were born with, but they need adults to coach them in how to lose.

Marylou Spohr
Restore Board Member



Norberto and Terrence at the Black History Month Dinner



Kids with volunteers Ethan and Mrs. Bowman during homework



Working diligently in the homework center

Executive Director's Message *Continued from page 1*

Our young people enter Restore in middle school at ten or eleven years old. That gives us eight to nine years of encouraging, mentoring, cajoling and working with them and their families to help get the best outcomes for each and every member.

Our next step is to grow the Restore organization while maintaining our family atmosphere. We have the staff team of five and have forty students on our rolls. We average

nineteen at our Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays large group meetings. Eight members meet on Friday for Reading club and we transport a group of middle school students on Wednesday, to collaborate with another afterschool organization that specializes in the arts and technologies. Those students will visit historical sites in Elizabeth and throughout Union County and make a DVD as their final project. As we grow from nineteen in attendance to twenty

five next year and hopefully will add five to eight new members attending Restore in the next six years, it will most likely double or more the students who will be in need of second, third and fourth chances. Restore is needed in our communities. The more we as staff learn and become better at delivering the Restore model to youth, the more success we will have in students making wise and healthy choices for their lives, finishing high school,

and pursuing post education when they graduate from Restore

I hope you enjoy this issue. It is filled with hope and possibilities that you have made possible by your thoughts, prayers and financial gifts. I am always thankful for you and the important role you play in this ministry. I hope to see you at *our*

Annual Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, June 15 from 6:00 to 8:00pm, at our host site at 1161 East Jersey St. in Elizabeth, NJ.

Linwood Bagby

Program Coordinator's Message

Between January and February, Restore members participated in Science Day at NJIT and visited the Art Institute of Philadelphia. On their trip to NJIT, our students received a chance to contribute their knowledge of science and technology by creating experiments and testing their hypothesis through the use of the scientific method. The participants exhibited their knowledge and understanding of the experiment so well that they were awarded and recognized for their achievements by the staff

and students of NJIT.

Amir Foy went on the Art Institute of Philadelphia (AIP) college tour. Amir is a senior at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle who has a deep interest in Culinary Arts and has rounded his choices of colleges between Art Institute of Philadelphia, Johnson and Wales, and Hudson Community College. Our visit to AIP was very informative and an "eye-opener" for Amir as he understood how much hard work and dedication would be needed

to apply and maintain academic good standing.

As a result of these two field trips, Matthew Vega a 7th grader at Battin Middle School, expressed a deep interest in applying and attending NJIT as his number one college choice. He expressed how the trip to NJIT opened his eyes to a whole new world academically and socially. Our second positive response came from Amir. Amir informed me on February 25th that he was accepted to the Art Institute of Philadelphia for

the fall of 2013. Congratulations to both members and may you take the light you receive from Restore Ministries and use it as a stepping stone to accomplish great things.

Our future events for the remainder of the school year include: ***Restore Ministries Olympics (TBA), Restore Ministries Annual Banquet (June 15th) and Restore Ministries End-of-the-Year BBQ (June 20th)***

Terrence Gilbert

RESTORE AT A GLANCE

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at our Annual
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on Saturday, June 15
from 6:00 to 8:00pm
at our host site
at 1161 East Jersey
Street in Elizabeth, NJ.***



Student Profile: Jovan Vasquez



Jovan playing ping pong with younger kids

I've been a member of Restore for a long time. I went with my older brother when I was eight years old and stayed until I was eighteen. I had many bumps in the road growing up and Restore was a wonderful place to go and find relief. I was always an average kid and could pass most tests given to me, but I just couldn't get

myself together when it came to school work. I was too distracted and I was labeled a "bad student." I was constantly suspended and receiving failing grades. After many failed attempts with middle and high school, I quit school at eighteen years old.

I thought I blew it especially when I was told I aged out of the Restore program and was not allowed to participate. That really made me think about my life and how much of a mess I was making of it. That is when Mr. Bagby came by my side and told me, "You don't have to stop your education because you dropped out of school. You can always get your GED and move on to college or trade school." That really got to me and I started to change my attitude and behaviors. I began to really look

at my future. The first things I did were get a part time job, start saving money, wrote down my goals, start reading books, and signed up for GED classes.

Restore gave me my second chance by helping me get my GED. After I gave up hope and dropped out, Restore was there for me and still is a big support as I look into a brighter future. So that's what I did, I got my GED. It took me some time but with the help of Restore I did it. Now I have to move on to the next big thing in my life, college, and I hope Restore will be there once more for me as I move ahead with a new focused and a resolve to make good of my life.

Jovan Vasquez

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