

# RESTORE MINISTRIES INC.

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One adage says,

*“Motivation gets you going. Influence is what makes you go in a particular direction.”*



**2018** My name is Erik Manzano and I am 18 years old. I am currently enrolled in John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and I am a senior. I've been attending restore for 8 years. I first heard of about restore when I was in the 4th grade. A boy named Bryan was giving out permission slips for a summer program called Restore. I thought it would have been really cool to go. When I got home and showed my mom she thought it was a good idea too

because I wouldn't be sitting around doing nothing. I signed up and when I got here I realized I was the youngest one here and another thing I none of my classmates showed up.

I didn't want to be alone so what I decided to do is invite my best friend Jakub. I asked Mr. Bagby for a permission slip to give to him. Jakub, my mother and I walked to Restore everyday. Everyone was either in high school or was about to be and we were just 4th graders becoming 5th graders.

Restore to me is a second family. When I started attending Restore I was the new generation of kids. When I began high school I saw a new generation of kids coming everyday. I've been watching them grow up over the years and I'm so proud of how much they've matured and gained so much knowledge about a little bit of everything. I hope to see

them succeed in life. There's one person I have high hopes for, his name is Jeremiah Fassett. He's an amazing friend of mine, someone I could always talk to and a loyal companion. He's so smart and I know he's going to be something amazing life.

Restore has heavily influenced me over the years. Restore helped me break out of my shell and met a group of amazing people over the years. I've matured and learned so much all because of Restore. Without Restore I'd be at home not doing anything, playing video games and wasting my time. Restore is also a place you can go to if you're having problems at home. If you want to get things off your mind, Restore is the place to do that. I can't imagine my life without Restore, all nine years have been the best, all of my best memories have been here. I love Restore with all my heart



**2021** My name is Erik Manzano I'm a student at Union County College, and I have been a part of Restore since 4th. grade. We are talking 12 years. Time flies when you are surrounded by amazing and genuine people and an incredible atmosphere. I chose to be a part of Restore for so many years due to the fact that it opened up a world to me that I did not even know existed. I got on my first boat, went fishing, got seasick for the first time. Getting seasick does not sound too great but it is a great story to tell. I was a city kid without a single story to tell and I now have an abundance of stories to tell and hope for one day to be able to do the same for other kids at Restore.



## Volunteering - Alumni's Message



**My name is Trevon Sloan,** and I am a Chemical Engineer. I

graduated from Lehigh University in 2018. I started attending Restore back in 2007 when I was 12 years old. Restore was introduced to me as a fun place to hang out for a few hours after school a few days per week, but it ended up meaning much more to me. Restore was not only fun, it was a safe haven and so beneficial to my life. There were many values taught here that are great values to have in life-values such as

teamwork, discipline, love, and community. I'm so grateful to have met people like Mr. Bagby, Ms. Ximena and Mr. Gary Reece. They have been a blessing in my life that have helped me to grow from an energetic kid to a wholesome, intelligent young man. I am now a volunteer for Restore because I figured the only way I could show my gratefulness would be to give back and help shape the next generation of kids

## Federal Work Study Program - Alumni's Message



### “Gratitude” - Isaiah Auguste

I will always be fond of Restore. I have created many bonds that I am sure will last a lifetime. Restore has

helped me and encouraged me in my times of need and have supported me whenever I felt down. I recalled my first day at Restore, I was scared and nervous to talk to anybody, but even so, Restore welcomed me with open arms and made me feel comfortable enough to be myself. Restore has also helped develop my character and has made me a better person through my various interactions with the other members in Restore. With kids who were older than me and kids who were younger than me, I was able to learn and experi-

ence a lot from being around them. The staff also instilled within me a great sense of responsibility by doing various chores and setting up activities for different events. I feel a great sense of gratitude towards Restore and all that it's done for my family and me. It provided a gateway, an escape from all the problems that I was dealing with at school, which is why I will always be grateful to Restore and support it any way I can. It makes me feel good to inspire others the same way others inspired me.

## Parent's Message



My name is Guillermo Manzano and I am the father of Erik Manzano. When Erik started Restore he was an extremely shy 9 years old kid. He lacked confidence. He asked a store clerk for a toy he wanted. He would rather go without and felt he was a bother.

At Restore, he loved running and playing in the gym, being with his school friends and being with the older Restore

members. Restore was a place for him to be a kid.

When he returned home he'd tell me how much fun he had and that he did the dishes for the first time. I didn't think he'd continue to go but he is an 18 years old high school senior and a leader in the program which shows how dedicated he is to Restore.

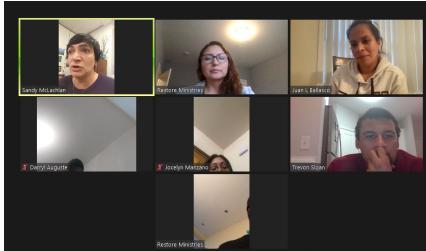
His mother tells me how much better Erik is in school and now he is

focused on his work. Restore tutors have helped him understand his homework. Many times he'd come home frustrated with his school work, but he knew the tutors at Restore would help him understand and learn.

Restore is a good place to be and I recommend that all parents take their children to Restore



## Student's Profile



**Jocelyn** participating in a Workshop for Junior and Senior students

Hi, my name is **Jocelyn Manzano**. I am a senior attending Elizabeth Public High School. I learned about Restore from my brother when I was about eight years old. I would always hear him talk about Restore to my mother, and I was jealous hearing about everything he did. When I was ten, I was finally allowed to join, and when I walked in, it was love at first sight. Seeing all the kids and how they ran around playing made me happy.

On my first day, I had made a couple of friends, and as time went on, I started to make connections with everyone. I made friends around my age, some older kids, and the staff. Restore got me to do chores; I remember putting us in groups and assigning different tasks each week. It didn't feel like work for me because I got to hang out with my friends and after we were done with it, we would play some games.

After a few years,

my brother started working with Restore during the summer as a camp counselor, and I saw that he loved his job, and he was passionate about it. I watched him become more mature and responsible, which made me want to work harder since we both can be a bit competitive. His passion for Restore and all the work he accomplished came home with him, and he had this great attitude. Erik pushed me to where I am to today, and I'm thankful.



Honor Roll Students' Celebration



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

## Executive Director's Message



walk into Restore's community. Erik did not mention his stepbrother who at seven years old joined us last summer and is still an active member. Isaiah, also our college intern, has his teenage brother and sister and his ten-year-old sister involved with Restore. With your help, Restore remains ready to meet every challenge with creativity, resilience, and innovation.

Together we can build on our progress and amplify the breakthroughs in the lives and futures of all our members who make Restore their second home. Supporting Restore's greatest assets, our children, and teenagers, is the best way to do that. Your gift will help launch and sustain

bright futures for them. It will enable Ximena, our partners, and me to discover the potential that lives inside our youth and help them immediately which can lead to reliable and proven outcomes and that are more effective at meeting their needs. Above all, you will bring more hope to our youth, their siblings, and their parents/guardians because every day presents new possibilities at Restore.

Thank you for driving Restore's most pressing work, our students, and their development, for both now and future members, forward.

*Mr. Linwood Bagby*

Today and always, I am deeply grateful for our extraordinary donor community. As you can see and read, you have changed so many lives with your love, gifts, and prayers. Families like Erik's have experienced siblings following in the footsteps of their older brother or sister who were the first to



## VIRTUAL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday  
3:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Visit us on the web!  
Donate!  
[www.Restorekids.org](http://www.Restorekids.org)  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/restorekids/>

- Upcoming Events
- ◆ Virtual Science Fair Week
  - ◆ Hybrid Summer Program (July 5 - 31)
  - ◆ Virtual 5K



## Program Director's Message

*"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me."* —Carol Burnett

(2018) It is terrific seeing our children grow day to day, and some of them are ready to spread their wings and fly towards their dreams and their beautiful futures. As a director of the Restore After-School Program, my goal is to provide a safe atmosphere and a healthy relationship between the staff and children. We make sure to influence them and help them achieve success in school and happiness in life. We monitor each of our children to support and help them and according to each of their situations.

Confidence and self-esteem are two of the most important aspects of a child/teen. Reading Erik's testimonial satisfies me, and I feel very proud of him. Because of our advice and guidance, he came to understand that.

He can overcome his fears, achieve his goals and discover his talents. I am sure that he will do amazing things in his future.

Erik is an example of what Restore can do for our youth, and to continue with this fantastic path, we need to work harder to provide safety to our program. It is difficult to say to our children, "don't worry, everything is okay, and you are safe here," when dangerous things happen everyday. Trust me, it's not easy at all, especially in an urban area. I pray for protection every day.

*"Follow your dreams, believe in yourself, and don't give up."*

(2021) Three years have passed, and new faces have arrived, along with those familiar ones, who are not children anymore. They have turned into teenagers, while others are young adults in college, and others have

graduated.

To continue to highlight Erik's achievements in the past three years, a nervous kid who became a confident and great asset for our organization. Erik influences other members.

It is fulfilling to see Erik become the amazing person he is now. He is enthusiastic, confident, humble, and responsible. The younger kids love his sense of humor. Besides, Erik is always willing to collaborate and go the extra mile to help me with the day-to-day programming.

Restore must be doing something right because our alumni have become reliable young adults. Erik and Isaiah work with Restore through the Union County College Federal Work-Study Program. Trevon works in Virginia and volunteers his time to virtually tutoring the younger Restore members.

These young adult's influence is crucial to our younger members. I work with

them daily, and I feel very proud to see them growing and becoming good assets to society.

We live in difficult times, but we continue forward, adapting and helping our children become resilient. One of Restore's goals is to provide members and their families support, relationships, and guidance to help them overcome situations and succeed academically and in life. I am sure our children and teens know that they will always have a family that loves and cares for them here at Restore.

I am confident that Erik, Isaiah, and Trevon will continue shining and doing great things in their lives, as well as all of our dear children.

Finally, I would like to say that this would not be possible without your kind support, and I encourage you to feel proud of these beautiful young adults like Linwood and I are. We all are changing lives.

*Ximena Carrasco*

## RESTORE AT A GLANCE