

BACK TO THE BASICS

**“Your never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”
C.S. Lewis**

The better sports teams I participated made sure we revisited the basics during the season. I knew how to execute four high school wrestling basic moves with confidence. I did know other fancier moves but the basics got me out of a lot of close cause.

Youth work is constantly revisiting basic theories and practices. Partly because of the turnover of new students when older teens graduate out of our programs. Then there are new staff and volunteers to train. Or the youth organization existed so long that best practice demands a re-

fresher course to see what should remain and the new that will be implemented.

As a youth worker, that means going back to the basics of youth work and positive youth development theory and practice. And for me that means Gisela Konopka's work and the research based principles from the Search Institute.

In the 1970s, Dr. Konopka conducted her research at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. Her work set the national agenda for promoting the health and well being of young people. She said the ef-

fectiveness of youth programs can be judged by the opportunities they offer youth and the credibility they enjoy. Stand-out programs give young people the experience of making choices, making commitments and experimenting with a variety of roles to “try out” the choices and commitment they make.

More recent research being conducted at the Search Institute is demonstrating that when young people experience relationships with adults that are characterized by five essential elements, their outcomes are significantly better in a wide

range of areas- from mastering social and emotional skills to succeeding in school- and risk behaviors such as drinking, smoking and fighting are significantly lower.

“Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they experience developmental relationships with important people in their lives. Developmental relationships are close connections through which young people discover who they are, cultivate abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and con-

STUDENT'S PROFILE

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

My name is Rim Badri, I am 11 years old. I am a 6th grade student. I've been a member of Restore for about 3 years. I come to Restore to have fun, participate in the activities and the most important thing is the help I get in doing homework. I found out about Restore by my brother's friend who invited us to sign up for the program, and I am glad I did because Restore teaches me a lot of values that will help me in my future life. Restore had become a second home for me. Restore made a huge impact in my life academically and socially, thank you Restore for being part of my life. _Rim

My name is Mohammed Badri. I am 10 years old. I am in 5th grade. I found out about Restore by my best friend Adam about 3 years ago, who invited us, my sister and me. I am glad that my parents let us come to Restore program. Because of Restore I started getting good grades. Restore takes us on field trips and organize fun activities. Thank you Restore for everything you are doing for me and my sister. _Mohammed



**GENEROSITY NEW JERSEY 5K
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tribute to the world around them. Search Institute has identified five elements: Express Care: Show me that I matter to you. Challenge Growth: Push me to keep getting better. Provide Support: Help me complete tasks and achieve goals. Share Power: Treat me with respect and give me a say. Expand Possibilities: Connect me with people and places that broaden my world." (The Developmental Relationships Framework may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only. Copyright © 2017 Search Institute®, 3001 Broadway Street NE, Suite 310,

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The basics is in youth work is about the relationships we build with our young people. The good news is that we adults can and do have powerful influence on the young people whom we connect. Young people, including teenagers, require many positive adults in their lives to let them know they are not alone and that we are there to help them navigate towards adulthood. High quality afterschool programs pro-

vide people and resources that will make our members' transition into adulthood easier. We are present in their lives and provide useful activities that will help them organize, focus, and make decisions regarding their future so that they can access the resources they need in timely manner. Children and teenagers can believe that they are more than able to fulfill their dreams, accomplish their goals, embrace new possibilities, and trust the process of growing and learning.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Going back to the basics strengthens your foundation." – Anonymous

Going back to the basics has happened to every adult. If you every had to stop, refocus, and analyze, then most likely you are reviewing the basics. Going back to the basics can give you a better view of what you want to do. It can be the foundation on what strategies you will need to achieve your goals.

There are many times in the past 25 years that Restore went to the basics in order

for us to move forward. Last year a large group of seniors graduated leaving us with freshmen and sophomores to train as new leaders. We are constantly making adjustments as funds are available. Some years we have a full team and other times like now it's just Linwood and me. I'm thankful for the volunteers and older students who are here to help me run Restore.

I'm working with Linwood, reviewing and restructuring our programs and services so we can meet the needs of our members. One new program added to our list is

"The Sports Clinic." Coach Sayon, from the non profit, More Than a Sport, volunteers on Mondays. The first sport is basketball, then we'll spend time teaching soccer skills and we'll end with volleyball.

I am concentrating my efforts by targeting academic progress in the Homework Center and enhancing community building and fun hands on activities.

Thank you for your faithful support to this very special work called Restore. Working together, we can change lives and guide our children and teenagers in the right direction.

Ximena Carrasco

PARENT'S MESSAGE



"When my kids joined Restore in 2016 I never thought they will be attached to it. We are a Muslim family, letting our kids go to a after school program based in a church didn't offend our religion be-

cause Restore for us is our second home. Restore Ministry provides for my kids a safe and loving environment where my children, Rim and Mohammed, get to play and do homework. Restore reinforces my husband and my values to be a person of worth, a self-reliant, caring individual and many more valuable life values.

Restore's educational activities help all kids in strengthening their character, developing good citizenship and enhancing physical fitness. All these values will help them in making good decisions throughout their lifetime. The more important thing is that Restore gives them confidence as they become adults in the future. With all the negative influence around us, Restore Ministry provides for my kids a safe place with a positive peer group and a fun and adventurous program that will help them shape their future. "Thank you Restore family for being here as part of our kids lives."

Touria Bradi

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SCIENCE WEEK
May

* **NJ 5K RUN/WALK**
June 2, 2019

• **END OF THE YEAR**
BBQ,
June 13, 2019

* **SUMMER PROGRAM**
July 2019

*"Everybody
can be great
because
everybody
can serve."*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I thought I bought enough ground beef for two meals, sloppy joes and spaghetti and meat sauce but with twenty five eating I decided to use it all for sloppy joes. Six new students recently joined Restore. They came at a good time.

Our recent graduates left space for fifteen new members. We have a broad gamut of younger and high school members. Our younger group range from eight to thirteen years old. Our high schoolers are mostly freshmen and sophomores.

Ximena and I decided that is a great time for us to refocus and pour our resources into providing programs and services that will be geared to each age group. I'm busy seeking funds that will help sustain and expanded our staff team. The goal by June is

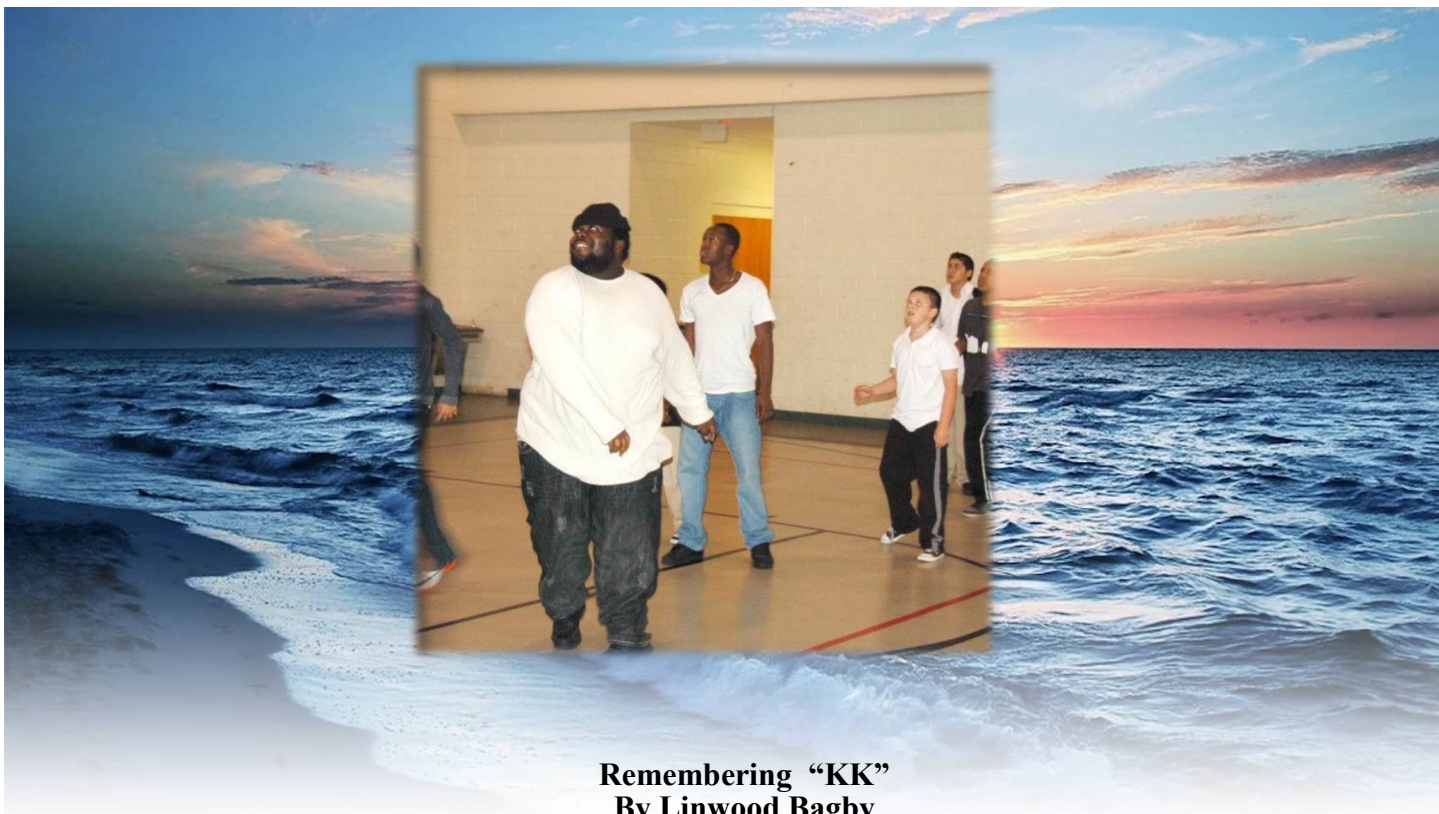
to hire part time a youth worker for the younger members and one for the teenagers. We'll still have group and family time, but as we continue to grow we can establish programs to meet each age group. Our team will have Ximena as full time Program Director and part time two youth workers, an administrative/social media person, a cook and me, the Executive Director.

Once we get our team in place, then we want to recruit more than fifteen new members. But for now it's

important that we continue to welcome all who come and provide them with a high quality after school program that will help them find and make friends, do their homework, eat a good meal, explore new places and ideas and interact with caring adults.

As always, a big thanks for all you do to make Restore possible

Linwood Bagley



Remembering “KK” By Linwood Bagby

Kerland Stavien was Restore’s first youth worker. Hired soon after he graduated from high school, KK was not much older than the young people in his care. An affable gentle giant, the teenage KK looked like he was in his twenties. Always close to the action and with his ear to the ground, KK was uniquely positioned to contribute ideas and work hard to make Restore an excellent program.

Kids gravitated towards him; he and his younger charges shared a true love and respect for each other. KK built up confidence and courage in each child. He was a rock onto which drifting youngsters could cling. He was also a loving son, good uncle and friend to so many.

At twenty-eight, KK’s health failed him and he was rushed to the hospital. Sadly, the medical team could not stabilize his high blood pressure and, with the arrival of spring, KK passed onto eternity.

I am sad; all at Restore are heart broken. We will miss his laughter, gentle voice, his street smarts and strength. In his time as a Restore youth worker KK was a mentor to a group of fourth and fifth graders who now have just finished their first semester of college.

For me this is too fresh: I write with tears as I think of the last time we bumped into each other at Walmart, where he worked. We talked so long that a manager came by to remind KK there were other customers to assist. I promised to call him to set up a time for us to get together during the Easter break. Alas, we’ll never make that meeting. But, I am so glad I got a chance to know KK as a high school student, was able to offer him his first real job, and see him as a happy successful young adult.

I loved you my little brother and thank you for a life that, although far too short, was well lived – with gusto!

