



P.O. Box 6129  
3030 Meadowbridge Rd  
Richmond, VA 23222

## News from the 2009 Long Walk To Freedom



Boaz & Ruth participant Lawrence Rohan and Board Member Reggie Gordon

The third annual Long Walk To Freedom was a great success! Despite the forecast of rain we had approximately 350 walkers and only the occasional drizzle. The event began with inspiring words from Sheriff Woody, Assistant Police Chief McCoy, and Boaz & Ruth apprentice Alton Mitchell. The walk was about 3 miles and included symbolic stops such as the Virginia Capitol building, the Social Services building, Central Intake/ Lock Up and the Reconciliation Monument. We had a total of 16 solution providers and community partners, who all worked hard to make this day a reality. The day concluded with more thought provoking words from poet Naomi Tucker who had a message for the drug dealers. As per tradition, we also had an auction of artwork contributed by currently incarcerated men and women. The auction is bitter sweet as it makes us aware of the raw talent that so many of these individuals possess that has yet to be realized by the rest of the world. Would you like to be a part of next year's walk? Please contact us as we will be starting the planning process all over again soon!

REBUILDING

EMPOWERING

CONNECTING

We're on the Web  
[www.boazandruth.com](http://www.boazandruth.com)

## Milestones

As a lead at Sunny Days thrift store, Linda Harris is dedicated, driven, and will always remember a shopper's size and style. She understands the importance of forging relationships by taking volunteers under her wings and teaching them how to run Sunny Days. Linda truly shines when working with youth volunteers, who say she has the traits of a mother.

As a leader, Linda doesn't tell others what to do, but instead helps them out along the way. Those who know Linda best say that she doesn't act a different way while working at Sunny Days. Instead, she brings her personality with her and is a consistent positive force in the store. Most importantly, her desire, sense of family and sense of style are constant.

## Linda Harris



Come by Sunny Days thrift store to experience Linda's positive energy for yourself. She is always looking for donations. Open Mon-Sat, 11AM-5 PM, (804)-329-4750

## Rebuilding Lives and Neighborhoods through Your Support



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- Same professional people

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**Gently Used Clothing and Accessories**  
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Shop with us for all of your holiday needs!



Sharing Our Common Wealth

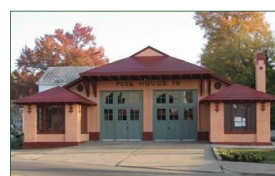
## Our Mission:

The mission of Boaz & Ruth is to rebuild lives and communities through relationships, training, transitional jobs and economic revitalization.



## Fire House 15 Cafe

Monday-Friday 7am-5pm  
329-FIRE



We're ready to cater your holiday needs!

# Gleanings from the Field

Fall 2009

## The Annual Giving Campaign...An Invitation To Help

Douglas Lawson said: "Philanthropy is the mystical mingling between the artful asker, the joyous giver and the grateful recipient." Together, those volunteers, contributors and the stories of program participants demonstrate the impact the Annual Giving Campaign has as a builder of relationships, communities and economic revitalization.

**"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived-this is to have succeeded."** -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Stories inspire, teach, comfort, and entertain. Boaz & Ruth is filled with hundreds of stories of people whose lives have been deeply touched. The stories you have seen, heard and experienced at Boaz & Ruth speak of the Annual Campaign's impact on people as they reach goals, develop character, overcome adversity, help others, and have hope and faith in the future.

"This is the best program of its kind in the country, maybe the world. I had nothing when I came out. Boaz and Ruth gave me a real chance, a place to live, some education and a position. I have committed to being an asset, not a liability at work and in the community." Roger Whitney, program graduate now employed full time with Elder Homes and GTT Enterprises.

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."** -Winston Churchill

Volunteers are at the heart of our mission. They have helped us set the pace, provided us the inspiration to follow our instincts, adapt to the expectations of our stakeholders, and have the courage to face all possible consequences. Please consider serving as a volunteer in the campaign and allowing one to share with you how a gift to the Annual Campaign can change a life.

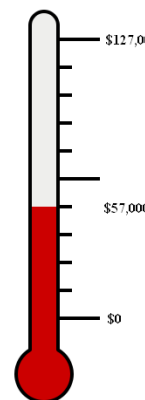
"Boaz and Ruth is a miracle. The changes in the lives of participants are inspirational. God is at work healing the people and the community, turning destructive into positive, despair into hope. You feel the warmth and love all of the people involved. It does not matter your background or your past, at Boaz and Ruth, people get another chance, the way God meant it to be." Corell Halsey Moore, Board Member and Volunteer Chairwoman for the 2009 Annual Giving Campaign

**"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."** -Maya Angelou

Donors enable us to move forward. They have touched our lives in special ways...Our debt is never ending! Our cup of blessings overflows. None can feel deeper the miracle of good fortune than do those that benefit from their philanthropy and hard work. It costs \$30,000/yr to keep a person incarcerated and \$15,000 to involve a person in this program. The positive return to the individual and society is great. Rest assured when giving through the Annual Campaign, you will have an abiding impact on every person we engage.



"The faith-based mission of B&R moves me deeply, because an underlying message of "HOPE" is provided to individuals in desperate need of a second chance. Participants are offered an opportunity to receive a "hand up", NOT a "hand out". This is an amazing opportunity for everyone to make the world a better place. The "upside" of this investment is too big to ignore." Joe Bartholomew, Board Member and Team Captain in the Annual Giving Campaign



Boaz & Ruth Annual Giving Campaign 2009

## Board of Directors

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Virginia State Bar (retired)

Darius Johnson  
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Winnie Westbrook  
Virginia State University

PRESIDENT, CEO  
Martha F. Rollins

## Volunteer opportunities at B&R

At Boaz & Ruth, we like to say the we are living in the “and”; the relationship that is. Providing opportunities for individuals from different experiences to form meaningful relationships is an important aspect of our organization. We are fueled by these positive relationships, which can be cultivated simply by volunteering your time. We are looking for your help in the following areas:

### Phone coverage

- o Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings 8-9:30am
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday's from 10 – 1:00
- o 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 11:30 – 2:00

### Waitress coverage at Firehouse 15

- o 8-9:30 Fridays

### Harvest Thrift and Sunny Days

- o Adopt one of our stores for a day and work with the ladies who keep them running a

on daily basis. Do you have a group of friends or a social circle within your church of which you are a part? Maybe together you could each pick 2 days of the month and lend a hand at Sunny Days or Harvest Thrift. It is a great opportunity to get to know members of the community and to make a lasting difference. Sign up today! Tell your friends!



## Richmond partners win award



From left: Sheriff C.T. Woody Jr., Chief Bryan T. Norwood, Boaz and Ruth CEO Martha Rollins, and a representative from MetLife Foundation

Boaz & Ruth, along with the Richmond Police Department and Richmond City Sheriff's Office, were honored with a MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award this summer for extraordinary achievements in improving safety and spurring economic development in the Highland Park community.

The Award recognizes partnerships between community development groups and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred housing development, economic activity and improved community services in low- and moderate-income communities. MetLife presented a \$15,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Award to the Richmond partners, who were selected from more than 650 applicants nationwide. Though its partnerships, Boaz & Ruth programs helped reduce crime by 37 percent in the area in the last year, said CEO Martha Rollins.

“Who better to restore a neighborhood than the people who helped to destroy it?” Rollins said in a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article. “When people come out of prison, in essence they’re opening business in the empty, boarded-up buildings that were left that way because of crime.

The recognition by MetLife Foundation punctuates a string of honors for Boaz & Ruth and its leaders, including recent recognition by the White House Office of Social Innovation. On June 30, founder Martha Rollins was invited to the White House to meet President Barack Obama and discuss her vision of Restore Corps, a national service program for ex-offenders.

“I just have a passion for connecting the wealth of society with the needs of society. I believe we both have needs and both have gifts, whether rich or poor,” Rollins said. “I could see business as a catalyst for connection.”



Representative Bobby Scott, and Senator Henry Marsh were present for the ceremony

## National Night Out proved memorable for B&R



From right: Chief Bryan T. Norwood, Milton Williams and Teak Edwards.

National Night Out was a banner evening for Boaz & Ruth. The evening of August 4 was one of celebration and recognition of the men and women that are foundational to the success of Boaz & Ruth as an organization. The evening began with the blessing of the 3019 1st Avenue house, recognizing the support of Consolidated Bank, the men and women of Cathedral Construction, James Brown and Calvin Carter. In addition to the blessing, the house

was dedicated in honor of our long time volunteer Jim DeVito. Jim is committed to building God's kingdom in Highland Park. He stands behind each apprentice, teaching them construction skills and telling them that they are loved by God and made new through their relationship with Him.

The evening progressed with dinner at Fire House 15 and a long-overdue appreciation event recognizing the partnership with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the men and women that come in each morning at 6 a.m. to collect refuse throughout the city. The partnership has become a transitional job opportunity with 13 people becoming full time permanent city of Richmond employees over the last three years. With music filling the air, between the DPW festivities and the beginning of the second round of Discovering Diamonds, more than 100 law enforcement officials stopped by Boaz & Ruth, which was just one of the many

stops recognizing National Night Out. With sirens blaring and the motorcade roaring Sheriff Woody, Chief Norwood and McGruff the Crime Dog all came out to meet community members. It was an amazing scene to see law enforcement and perceived law breakers come together in community and happiness. The evening culminated in yet another round of tough competition with talented diamonds waiting to be discovered.



Jim DeVeto accepting a plaque in honor of a house being dedicated in his name.

## Upcoming Events

**October**  
**Informational Lunches**  
Tuesday, October 6  
Thursday, October 15  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**Merchant's Day, Homecoming, Discovering Diamonds Finale**  
Saturday, October 17  
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**November**  
**Informational Lunches**  
Tuesday, November 3  
Thursday, November 19  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**December**  
**Informational Lunches**  
Tuesday, December 1  
Thursday, December 17  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**2009 Graduation**  
Thursday, December 10  
12:00 PM—1:30 PM  
Police Training Academy  
1202 West Graham Road

**Christmas Caroling**  
Thursday, December 17  
6:00 PM—8:00 PM

For information on any of these events, or to make reservations, please call (804) 329-4900 ext. 203 or email reservations @boazandruth.com.

## 2009 Finale—Oct. 17

*Discovering Diamonds Finale*  
Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:30  
Meadowbridge Road



The road will be closed from 6 Points to Enslow Ave. for Merchants Day/community celebration, similar to an “old fashioned block party.”