



Americorps Monthly Report

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Organization Name: Boaz and Ruth, Inc.

Program Name:

Name & Title of Reportee: Veronica Kerns, Site Administrator

Reporting Period: August, 2008

Date this report completed: September 9, 2008 at 3:45 PM

Approved By: Steve Whitman

Outputs: Briefly describe activities during the reporting period relative to your program's Performance Measures. Clearly state how and/or why the particular activity relates to the performance measure.

Needs and Services: In the month of August the roof was replaced / repaired on the 10,000 square ft. garage. However; in the process of removing the old roof The Sunny Days Clothing Store was completely destroyed. The walls were filthy, the floor was in ruins and inventory was destroyed and had to be discarded.

The entire roof had to be removed in order to repair it. During the process of removing the old roof, debris dropped down into Boaz & Ruth's Sunny Days Clothing store. The office space and meeting room side of the 10,000 square ft. garage did not sustain as much damage. During the month of August Boaz & Ruth staff and AmeriCorps members went into Sunny Days, salvaged inventory that was not damaged, completed repairs and cleaned the store.

The month of August was dedicated re-opening the Sunny Days Clothing store. The good news is that the name can be changed from Sunny Days Clothing Store. It was given that name because business could only be conducted on sunny days. When the store opens again business can be conducted on rainy days too. With the new roof there will no longer be water dripping / running in when it rains.

Once the HVAC system is installed the damaged floors will be repainted and the 10,000 square ft. garage restorations and renovations will be complete. AmeriCorps members have been assigned to other business venture life/labs at Boaz & Ruth. The business ventures of Boaz & Ruth provide members with on the training.

AmeriCorps members: Norman Thomas, Ruben Murphy, Patterson Crawley are in training at another Boaz & Ruth business venture. A dilapidated house is currently under going restoration at 1213 Giles Street. The house has been a part of the Boaz & Ruth program since August, 2007. The house was uninhabited and rundown; a complete restoration job had to be done. During the month of August, 2008 demolition was done / walls were gutted out, floors torn out and ceilings ripped open to prepare the house for the installation of new pipes / plumbing and new electrical wiring.

It was reported that the apprentices and seekers who worked on the project have done a wonderful job. Norman Thomas, Ruben Murphy, Patterson Crawley, have all learned new marketable skills. The members stated they have learned skills such as: Plumbing, electrical wiring and framing. In the process of acquiring these technical skills members had to learn how to use levelers, saws, measuring tools, wood beams used for framing, the type of electrical

wiring required, the use of jack hammers, picks and other tools this writer has no knowledge of. Norman Thomas learned how to do asbestos tile replacement on the outside of the building a specialized technical skill. This skill is implemented when restoration is done on old homes. The original material is salvaged, cleaned and positioned back into place. On first glance an untrained eye cannot tell this type of work was done on the 1213 Giles Street House.

Member Development: The AmeriCorps annual review provided Boaz & Ruth with the opportunity to reiterate AmeriCorps member's rights, responsibilities and the AmeriCorps mission. Boaz & Ruth held classes and work shops surrounding material pertaining to the said subject matter.

In addition Boaz & Ruth staff wanted to convey the spirit of what the AmeriCorps vision and mission is all about. The concept of Volunteerism was communicated and that there is therapeutic value in the world of volunteerism. The importance of giving and how it enriches the lives of members, recipients and their community; leaving a trail of hope for others. Volunteerism was expressed in a way that will teach each member the value in it. Volunteerism was articulated in a way which relates it to helping individuals develop character associated with qualities such as: accountability, responsibility, dependability. Fundamental basics that are building blocks to a health, wealthy, prosperous life. Members are being exposed to the fact that success is not necessarily measure by the contents of what you have, it can also be measured by what you give.

Strengthening Communities: Boaz & Ruth acquired six houses in the Highland Park community that have been blight to the area for a long period of time. It is a business venture and the purpose is to provide residential opportunities for members in the program and members of the community. In addition the project will restore homes that are in dire need of repair. These houses have been blight to the community and are currently under going restoration or have been restored.

The restoration of these houses alters the face of the community, turning abandoned houses into occupied homes. With a little more blight removed from the Highland Park Community, families and individuals from Richmond's surrounding area may be attracted to the area, move in and take up residence.

Sustainability: Describe your program's efforts during this reporting period toward sustainability (defined in terms of media and marketing, volunteer/leader development, collaboration, fundraising/resource development or other areas that may assist the program toward self-sufficiency).

Boaz & Ruth acquired six houses in the Highland Park community that have been blight to the area for a long period of time. It is a business venture and will at one point bring in revenue that will help to make Boaz & Ruth a self sustaining program. In addition, Boaz & Ruth's Sunny Days Clothing store will no longer have to open for business only on sunny days. Sunny Days is now sporting a new roof and the threat of rain leaking through is gone.

The Sunny Days Clothing store was doing good business even though it could only open when weather permitted. It can now establish a pattern of being open six days a week. Customers will know for sure when the store is open for business. Sunny Days Clothing store will be in a better position to contribute consistently, bringing Boaz & Ruth closer to self sustainability.

Challenges: Describe any challenges your program currently faces.

One challenge was trying to raise funds to get the new roof for the 10,000 square ft. building and the Boaz & Ruth 3030 Meadowbridge Road location.

What strategy will you employ to address these challenges?

During the Boaz & Ruth luncheon tours the needs of the program are communicated to visitors. A direct result of this was a visitor who wants to remain anonymous donated half the money needed to get the roof repaired at the 10,000 square ft. garage and to have a HVAC system

installed.

Assistance: Our program needs the following assistance from the Office on Volunteerism and Service (please be specific).

No information reported

Special Events: Describe a special event that your program has organized or participated in. Examples include service projects, community planning meetings, recognition events, etc.

Boaz & Ruth held its annual Discovering Diamonds Talent Contest (Part II) on August 19th, 2008. Over 200 people from the community and Richmond's surround area showed up for the event. Many people from the community and Richmond's surrounding area auditioned for the talent search. However; only a few made the cut. There were poets, singers and dancers who performed in the contest. All of the participants were very talented which made it hard for the judges to choose the winner. The winners from each contest will compete for the \$1,000 dollar prize money in October, 2008.

Food and drink was provided by Boaz & Ruth. People from the community, BRACE members and individuals from Richmond's surrounding area had the opportunity to: network, share experiences, bond and form friendships. One of Boaz & Ruth missions is to Cross Cultural Barriers and connects people. The Discovering Diamonds Talent Contest provides an opportunity for individuals from different backgrounds to meet. This makes the Boaz & Ruth Discovering Diamonds event special indeed.

Member Highlight: Provide a brief description of one member's role in your program, along with a two or three sentence response from the member.

AmeriCorps member Rochan Johnson stated that when she was released from jail, she had nowhere to go and her uncle told her about the good things going on at the Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps program. After careful consideration Rochan applied and was accepted into the AmeriCorps part of the program.

When asked to describe a typical day at the Boaz & Ruth / AmeriCorps program Rochan responded:

a. "It's Hard". She stated her role as a team leader is very challenging, her life / lab is at the Sunny Days Clothing store. In her lead position Rochan is being taught management skills. How to arrange displays, marketing strategies, inventory control and more. Rochan stated, "I have never done anything like this before, I am learning skills I believe will benefit me". Every day is a challenge, but there is always something good that comes out of it. Rochan also expressed that she is getting practical information from the Conflict Resolution and Core Belief classes. Rochan stated that the Conflict Resolution class is teaching her how to manage her anger and the Core Belief class helps her through her hardships and shows her how to manage her emotions.

b. My most enlightening experience was to find out that I can manage my anger. I have also learned that challenges are opportunities not obstacles.

c. I can now walk through my fears and face challenges. I was afraid and did want to try and get my GED. However; I am now going to school working on getting my GED. I am no longer afraid any more, I even believe I can take it a step further and go to college.

d. There is always someone at the program who will help you through your fears and obstacles. I believe that is the greatest thing about the Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps program.

Notes: Please list any additional information that you believe the Office on Volunteerism and Service needs to have.

No information reported

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1 Comments

[Steve Whitman](#) said on 9/10/08 at 01:40 PM

Lloyd/Veronica:

The August monthly report is outstanding, as usual! I have saved it as Approved.

Thanks!

Steve

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Office on Volunteerism & Community Service | Virginia Department of Social Services
7 North 8th Street | Richmond, VA 23219

Toll free in VA: (800) 638-3839 | Direct: (804) 726-7065 | Fax: (804) 726-7024 | Email:
info@vaservice.org