



## Americorps Monthly Report

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**Organization Name:** Boaz and Ruth, Inc.  
**Program Name:** BRACE (Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps Endeavor)  
**Name & Title of Reportee:** Veronica Kerns  
**Reporting Period:** February, 2008  
**Date this report completed:** March 12, 2008 at 8:09 AM  
**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:** The 10,000 square ft. garage to be restored during the course of this year received a face lift during the month of February. Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps members were assigned the task of restoring one of the three huge garage doors. Members received lessons on how to remove the moldings surrounding the large windows and proceeded to take out the broken glass in the door. They were trained to use measuring tools such as: measuring tapes, levelers and framing squares.

After being instructed on how to properly use the measuring devices, measurements were taken of the windows and the bottom of the door. The bottom base of the doors wooden frame was ragged and rotten. The wooden base had to be ripped off and removed. BRACE AmeriCorps members measured and cut the new moldings for the window frames. In addition they measured and cut the new wood that would soon replace the rotten wood torn out from the bottom base of the door.

When all the material was made ready, members were instructed on how to install the molding for the window frames and how to apply and secure the new wood to the bottom of the door. The 10,000 square ft. garage is called the (Benefield Building); the previous owner's name is Benefield who has been a member of the Highland Park Community for twenty five years. In addition the root of the name Benefield is derived from (Bene); meaning kind, caring generous, giving, benign. The new name given to the 10,000 square ft. building means "Good Place" and indeed it is a good place for the AmeriCorps members to learn skills that can be used in today's job market.

**Member Development:** Communication skills were taught to all participating AmeriCorps members in the month of February. The Toastmasters classes are held every other Thursday at Boaz & Ruth. The classes afford members the opportunity to practice speeches and learn to address groups. They are taught what is the structure of a speech and how to deliver it. This month BRACE members Donna Scaturro, Mike Alexander, Wendell Randolph, Robert Lewis, Charles Alexander and James Vincent wrote and presented speeches. All members were exposed to the main components of a speech such as:

Developing an (Ice Breaker), how to organize your speech, getting to the point, how to say it, the use of body language, vocal varieties, researching your topic, the use of visual aids, how to persuade with power, inspiring the audience.

Over the course of the remaining time in the Boaz & Ruth program all members will give at least six speeches.

In addition every Friday all BRACE members participate in the Re-entry/Recovery class. During the month of February members were guided through what it takes to manage

addictions, how to identify what may trigger a relapse, how to recognize the past experiences in ones life that may be the underlying reason which causes an addict to use drugs and sedate their feelings. They were taught that use of drugs is just the outward manifestation and to search for the cause internally.

**Strengthening Communities:** Boaz & Ruth's community computers have become a vital tool for many community members. After 10:00 a.m. the computers are in demand, community members come in to use the computers for business, purposes, to type papers, do flyers, resumes and more. Community members come in to use the computers for job searching and research. After kid's get out of school for the day they can be seen at the computers doing home work and just having fun. The community computers at Boaz & Ruth are known about by community members and are used daily.

**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).**

During this reporting quarter fifty students from Saint Catherine's School volunteered to come to Boaz & Ruth and help set up the clothing store that will soon be opening. The student helped tremendously with transferring donations from storage to the clothing store. They priced and tagged clothing. They placed items by sizes on the clothing racks. The volunteers also participated in some of the painting that was done during the month. Needless to say the volunteer's contribution brought Boaz & Ruth a little closer to opening the new clothing store. When the clothing store is opened it will surly contribute to bring Boaz & Ruth closer to becoming self sustaining.

**Challenges: Describe any challenges your program currently faces.**

Helping members to better manage the finances. Address the issue of having bad credit or establishing credit for the first time.

**What strategy will you employ to address these challenges?**

During the month of February Richmond City's Chief of Police, Rodney Monroe's wife volunteered to teach a class on Finance. Marveta Monroe taught members how to budget their income, how to open savings and checking accounts, the steps to take to fix bad credit reports. There will be on going classes in the field of finance to assure member will get the information necessary to better manage their money.

**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.**

When the fifty students from Saint Catherine's School who volunteering their time at Boaz & Ruth; they were given the opportunity to hear many of the true life events / stories told by ex-offenders in the Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps program. Some of the stories told by members moved many of the students to tears and inspired them to tell others about what is going on at the Boaz & Ruth program. The students were so impressed and touched by the ex-offenders trails and tribulations, they told many of their friends and family members. The friends and family members reacted by wanting to donate of their time and resources.

When the story of one man or woman's plight in life moves another to do a good deed, it is truly a SPECIAL EVENT. When human beings connect and bond on a level that is not tangible, it is truly a SPECIAL EVENT.

**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.**

Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps member Kelvin Coley was chosen for this monthly interview because of the many achievements he has accomplished since becoming a member of the organization. Listed below are some of his accomplishments:

Kelvin has paid off \$9,000 dollars of debt.

Kelvin has earned the privilege to operate a motor vehicle again and has his driver's license.

Kelvin is now in the process of buying his own home through the Habitat for Humanities program.

When Kelvin was interviewed his responses the questions were as follows:

a. My day at Boaz & Ruth starts with the attendance of the morning classes that are held. Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, Finance, Healthy Family, Core Beliefs and the Bible Study. The Core Belief class has had the most impact on my life. Through the Core Belief class I learned that a lot of the things I based my beliefs on were not true and had no value. The class gave me a lot of clarity on life and what I base my beliefs on now. After attending the classes my life labs/job deals with the storage and inventory, pick-up and delivery of donations and the Mountain Movers venue. I have learned how to safely move furniture with out damaging it or hurting my self.

How to indentify and handle expensive furniture, how to pack it.

b. My most enlightening experience was finding a companion. I told my self I would never find a companion and or get married. I believe this with all my heart. This new attitude I got is from participating in the Core Belief classes. I saw that someone would really stick up for me, believe in me, could become a part of my life if I allowed it, if I changed. Something I never believed could happened did Something I thought I never would do, I have done.

c. I have change by surrounding my self with positive people, places and the things I do now are positive. In the past I always associated with negative people, placed my self in dangerous position and never really pursued anything positive.

d. I would tell the world that this program is a program for a person who wants something out of life. And if there is something a person really wants from life, Boaz & Ruth is a good starting point. This program will show people that dreams can be turned into goals. Most importantly I would tell the people you will only get from the program what you are willing to put in it.

**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 3/12/08 at 10:58 AM

Lloyd/Veronica:

The February monthly report is wonderful! A great combination of descriptions of service activities and inspiring anecdotal tales of members' lives being affected in the process.

I have saved the report as Approved.

Thanks!  
Steve

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