



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: January, 2007

Date this report completed: February 20, 2007 at 12:23 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: The month of January was a time of working towards completing the Giles Street House restoration. New floors were installed in the downstairs bathroom and washer / dryer and pantry area. The upstairs small bedroom was set up for carpeting. Carpet was installed in the upstairs front bedroom, which is very large. The molding around the walls was completed. I was told the upper hallway and the downstairs living room is being saved for last. Only minor things need to be completed.

Member Development: AC member Leonard Bullock has developed in a most outstanding way. He started the AC program working on the Giles Street House restoration project, learning the field of Home Restoration: electrical wiring, plumbing, installing insulation, dry wall hanging, painting, sanding and many other related skills. Leonard Bullock is now in the Administrative Special Projects Department, which works jointly with the Development Team. Leonard is now performing many organizational functions. He recently was placed in charge of organizing the committee that will be responsible for pulling off this year's 2007 Annual Gala. To quote Leonard, "I gained an enormous amount of experience; I have had to grow tentacles in order to keep up with the demand for my evolving skills."

Strengthening Communities: In the month of January a new class was started: "Within My Reach" is designed for individuals who are economically disadvantaged and at higher risk for negative relationship outcomes. AC members are in attendance. It is a 14-hour core class with ancillary modules and interactive exercises. The core curriculum is built around the theme that: "Your romantic relationship will not be neutral in the effects on your children and your work success." In other words, the decisions one makes in romantic attachments will affect the possibility of success in every other aspect of life – especially child rearing and work productivity. The purpose is to help identify how relationships and behaviors affect their lives, to acquire skills to improve their chance for relationships success for themselves and their children, and to consider future relationship goals in marriage and the work place. Through these insights our AC members are empowered and strengthened, extending that strength to their families and friends, making them more productive in the work environment and other areas of their lives.

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 has been giving Connecting Informational Luncheons & Tours for a year.

These luncheons are given to inform and solicit volunteers, donations and community involvement. Every first Tuesday and third Thursday these luncheons and tours take place. The number of participants varies, but the increase is noticeable.

Individuals who attend are from prestigious, prominent, influential, minor, mediocre and ordinary walks of life; however all share something in common -- a need to be of service. It is because of this that people continue to come. The continued turnout confirms that word of mouth is a productive form of advertisement.

Many of these participants wind up sharing their skills, time and resources in an endeavor to be of help to individuals who are less fortunate than themselves. The amazing thing is that these individuals' only motive is to help another human being. The people who come to the Boaz & Ruth Info Luncheons prove that humanity, charity, hope and love have not disappeared completely from this society which in many ways has grown insensitive and uncaring.

Challenges: Describe any challenges your program currently faces.

The challenge of coming up with more space and/or taking the space available and maximizing its use.

What strategy will you employ to address these challenges?

What was just one classroom space is now used for two. A single office has been turned in two and three. Storage space has been turned into work space and some of the sales floor has been turned into office space. We have learned to take what is there and appropriately divide it. AC members are learning problems are opportunities.

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.

In the year 2007 Boaz & Ruth has held its fifth Connecting Across Richmond Martin Luther King Day Celebration worship, candlelight walk and dinner. The turnout for this event was wonderful. People from all over Richmond and the surrounding area attended. One of the unique things about the Boaz & Ruth events is that individuals who otherwise would not meet are afforded the opportunity to do so. Unlikely relationships are forged among people who have material means and people who are rich in spirit who lack many material necessities, thereby enriching each other lives. The Richmond City Police Department Choir performed at the event. Their passion and spirit brought the participants to their feet. There were over 200 in attendance. The event was a success.

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.

AC member Roxanne Davis came to Boaz & Ruth in the month of October 2006 seeking employment as a truck driver. After being interviewed she was assessed as a good candidate for the AC program.

a. Roxanna describes her typical day at Boaz & Ruth with a lot of emphasis on the 2-hour morning classes. She stated that "I have found the classes very useful. I am learning pertinent information that I can use to help me make necessary changes in my life in order to achieve progress. After classes I go to the life/lab I have been assigned. I work in the Department of Public Works area dealing with Administrative and clerical duties. I have been introduced to Microsoft Access. Learning the program is showing me how to incorporate massive amounts of information into reports."

b. Roxanne says the classes have been the most enlightening thing that has happened. Asked to

be more specific, Roxanne stated “The Core Belief Class has put me in touch with my spiritual side and made me realize the connectivity of all things which leads directly to GOD.

c. “I have learned humility and patience. There are times when conditions are not what I would have them to be and I being a self-centered person would not respond well to that. It is a big thing for me to wait on things; I am not used to that. My need for immediate gratification was not to be denied. I have gotten some control over that now, for that I am grateful.

d. “I would tell the world that if a person needs help and is ready to receive it, Boaz & Ruth is a good place to be.”

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 2/22/07 at 11:55 AM

As always, this is a great report - full of inspirational information.

However, as I've mentioned on several occasions, the report contains multiple typographical and grammatical errors.

Please carefully review and correct each of these errors and notify me via email when complete.

Thanks!

Steve

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