



## AmeriCorps Monthly Report

[« Back to Report Listing](#)

**Organization Name:** Boaz and Ruth, Inc.  
**Program Name:** BRACE (Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps Endeavor)  
**Name & Title of Reportee:** Veronica Kerns, Site Administrator  
**Reporting Period:** July, 2007  
**Date this report completed:** August 8, 2007 at 4:02 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:** David Armington the project supervisor for the Boaz & Ruth Old Historic Fire Station reported that in the month of July productivity was high. A milestone was reached in that all large projects such as the windows and exterior painting was complete. Quarter inch Plexiglas was installed over all windows, the Plexiglas is intended to provide additional insulation and is highly impact resistant. It was a big transformation to have the plywood come off, now the windows can be seen in place by the general public. Finishing the large restoration projects has enabled work to be concentrated in other areas.

As far as the inside of the building, great progress was made on stripping, repairing and refinishing of the original doors. Seven out of nine doors are ready to be painted and hung. Also, the mechanical crews have been able to start work on the heating, ventilation; air conditioning, plumbers and electricians have begun work. Ameri Corps members have been training with them helping to speed along their progress. Two additional rooms are being finished up were AC members have been able to utilize the newly acquired plastering skills to close wholes that were in the ceiling and walls. The two rooms will make a total of four rooms that are very close to being painted also.

Another project that was taken on in July was that all the garage doors were taken down and the mechanical hardware that operated them.

By hand AC members will be trained to build Douglas Doors a total of six doors. The doors will be eight feet tall and six feet wide. These doors will serve as entrances to the build and will include side lights on top. Building these doors on site will provide a tremendous saving for Boaz & Ruth. The retail value of each door is \$1,200 dollars each and the side lights are \$600.00 dollars each. Making the doors on site with the labor provided by training AC members will absorb a significant amount of the cost. Making the doors on sight will also afford the opportunity to manipulate the design so that it can be custom made to fit the space the rolling doors occupied. That last accomplishment was to refinish all the original hard pine beams in the bay area of the Fire House. The lumber is precious and once all the old paint is removed the room will look spectacular and impressive. A number of the AC members have gotten highly skilled at paint removal and sanding. Mr. Armington said that the beams are truly of historical significance and he is please with the way members have been able to pursue this by doing it efficiently and not scaring the wood.

**Member Development:** AC member Dwight Claxton was awarded the position of Boaz & Ruth's Ambassador of the Month in July 2007. The Ambassador of the Month is a trainee who through the ideals of Boaz & Ruth such as:

1. Seeking and being receptive to opportunities for learning and growth through a variety of formal and informal approaches including classes, workshops, meetings and personal reflection.
2. Working collaboratively with staff and peers in a courteous, cooperative and honest manner.
3. Performing assigned tasks in a manner that reflects accuracy, timeliness, initiative and effectively giving and receiving feedback.
4. Being a good steward of Boaz & Ruth's supplies, equipment, time and finances.

If a stranger unfamiliar with the organization were to look upon Dwight Claxton, they would see an ethic and demeanor reflective of the best of the program. The Ambassador of the Month title honors the recipient with certain benefits, but ultimately signifies an individual's extraordinary development as a professional and responsible person.

**Strengthening Communities:** In the month of July Boaz & Ruth can report that it is in now running two Transitional Homes. The Giles Street House was a dilapidated house and an eye sore of the Highland Park North Side community for many years. The Giles Street House has been completely renovated and restored. It is now occupied by BRACE Ameri Corps and Boaz & Ruth members. Also, Boaz & Ruth has another transitional house called the Naomi House, between the two of them 10 members now have a place to reside at. The transitional house provides support and rest after a hard day of training and work. It has long been a vision of Boaz & Ruth to provide a safe haven for individuals. One of the challenges faced by the organization was many cases where members would leave the training program for the day and not have a home to stay at. Many of these Individuals could not excel because of housing issues. It is a privilege and honor to provide housing to those who are in need of it. Making the community more stable by way of reducing the number of homeless individuals.

**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's Diamond Catering and Café is now a steady contributing venue. Business is consistent and stable. The Café' has moved from being sustained by the other venues of Boaz & Ruth to self sustainability. The Catering business is consistently getting orders for service to be rendered. AC members Edbert Smith, Norman Mayo and John McNealy are all developing skills in the area of Food Service. It was reported to me by AC member Josh Stiff that revenue has increased in both food service venues. Diamond Catering and Café are bringing Boaz & Ruth closer to becoming self sustaining.

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

One of the challenges this quarter was developing plans that will get Graduates jobs in companies were they can flourish and utilize skills learned in the BRACE Ameri Corps program.

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

Boaz & Ruth's Connecting Team is working hard on establishing relationships with company's that will offer jobs to ex-offenders based on their accomplishments in the BRACE Ameri Corps program. Owens's & Minor's CEO Hugh Goldthroup has showed a considerable amount of interest.

**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.

During the month of July interviews were conducted and participants selected to be a part on Boaz & Ruth's 5th Discovering Diamond Talent Search Contest. On July 17th Part One of the Diamond Search Talent Contest was held. Over one hundred people turned out from Richmond and the surrounding area. Out of all the contestants that performed 5 were selected as winners. The first place winner wrote his own gospel song which mesmerized the audience. The second place winner wrote his own poem and eloquently delivered it as a form of poetry. The three top winners will return and perform in Part Two of The Diamond Search Talent Contest. The Diamond Search Talent Contest is a way of bring the community together, inspiring individuals to look inside them selves and develop the talents bestowed upon them.

**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.**

Jeanette Cain came to Boaz & Ruth in August of 2006 and has made tremendous progress training in the small business Retail Sales Department of Boaz & Ruth. Jeanette has trained in two of Boaz & Ruth's Furniture & Home Accessories Retail Sales Stores. Jeanette has gained skills that have been fine tuned in the areas of:

Interior decorating, inventory control, furniture price appraisals, identifying collectables and antiques, business management, writing transaction receipts with sales and use taxes added.

When asked the required questions Jeanette responded:

a. My day starts with a two hour class offered at Boaz & Ruth each day. The Conflict Resolution and Core Belief classes have truly been beneficial to me. The Conflict Resolution class because it has helped me to manage anger, equipping me with tools I can use to control my temper. The Core Belief class has helped me to deal with health and family problems. I am now more open and responsive to family and friends' regarding what is going on with me and the areas I need to work on.

b. My most enlightening experience has been the networking opportunities afforded me. I never thought I could interact with such a diverse group of people.

c. One change I have made is the ability to speak in public and address a group of people, which is something I thought I could never do. I can honestly say I am getting better at it. The Toastmasters class on Public Speaking is where I have gained many of the tools from.

d. Boaz & Ruth has all the elements necessary to help individuals get on a positive road. Anyone who is willing to change and help their self in the process will be a success once they become a part of the BRACE Ameri Corps program.

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

No information reported

[« Back to Report Listing](#)

## 1 Comments

[Steve Whitman](#) said on 8/13/07 at 09:43 AM  
Lloyd/Veronica:

The July monthly report is outstanding! I have saved it as Approved.

One note: it appears that the proof reading that had been conducted on previous reports was not done on the July report. There are multiple typographical and grammar errors.

Please be certain to proof read and conduct spelling and grammar checks in Microsoft Word before pasting the content into the report.

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](mailto:info@vaservice.org)