



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: July, 2008

Date this report completed: August 8, 2008 at 12:10 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 storage space that was used for Boaz & Ruth's Sunny Days Clothing store was the old bay area of the 10,000 sq. ft. garage where mechanics repaired vehicles. During the month of July Boaz & Ruth's Facilities Manager; Derrick Peterson reported that AmeriCorps members set up a temporary storage space for the inventory of Sunny Days Clothing Store. The temporary storage space was set up in the 10,000 sq. feet building in an area between the new office space and The Sunny Days Clothing Store. AmeriCorps members: Hakeem Ali, Michael Clark, Wendell Randolph, Charles Alexander, Debra Covington, Brenda Watson, Rochan Johnson and Sharon Coleman were all a part of the project.

In addition members constructed new clothing racks giving them more carpentry experience. The added clothing racks made it possible to display more stock from the inventory in storage. Members also were trained in the field of merchandising.

Member Development: During the month of July Boaz & Ruth implemented a Transitional Program. The Transitional Program was developed to prepare all members for transitioning out of the Boaz & Ruth program into the every day American work force. The Transitional program is preparing members with tactics / methods to interview with potential employers. One of Boaz & Ruth's Board Members, Robert Dorche is spear heading the project.

The project goal is to accentuate skills they have and refresh their memories on resume writing, creating cover letters and job interviewing techniques. Members have been doing practice interviews which are recorded and reviewed by Robert Dorche with the AmeriCorps members. This process builds confidence, affords members the opportunity to look at how they interviewed and see if improvement is necessary. The training received from Robert Dorche also assists members in the personal development process.

In addition Mr. Dorche has arranged for members to attend job fairs. He is contacting potential companies and organizations that may be willing to partnership with Boaz & Ruth, to provide job opportunities for ex-offenders.

Strengthening Communities: Boaz & Ruth has established a partnership with the Richmond City Police Department to provide quarters/office space for their Department of Police Truant Officers. Their office space will be set up at the 3096 Boaz & Ruth property. The property is located on a corner where there is loitering through out the day. Also, during the school year you can see children hanging out on the corner who should be in school. One of the purposes of the partnership is to discourage loitering in the area and keep children in school who would be other wise hanging out on the street corners. This should be a win-win situation for the

community, The Police Department, Parents and the Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps program.

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).

Business picked up for the Boaz & Ruth Furniture Restoration shop in the month of June, there was so much business that customers were placed on a waiting list for July 2008. The finished product that comes out of Boaz & Ruth's Parable Furniture Restoration shop is polished and pristine. Satisfied customers have by word of mouth spread the word to friends and family about the great work that is being done there.

AmeriCorps member Todd Thompson works closely with Mike Fox who is a master craftsman when it comes to restoring furniture or doing repairs. Todd Thompson came with some experience in the field of furniture restoration and repairs. Mike Fox said during his first month of training he was watching to see what kind of skills he already knew.

When Todd has finished his apprenticeship with Mike Fox he will be a well oiled furniture restoration specialist. Mike Fox has been in the furniture restoration business for over 20 years. He was responsible for all restorations and repair jobs at Martha's Mixtures Antique shop which was in business for 30 years. The high quality of Mike Fox's work brings back repeat business and generates new customers. We are lucky that he came on board with Boaz & Ruth.

Mike Fox stated that the Furniture restoration shop's business has been yielding a few thousand dollars for the month of June and July of 2008. The money earned from the jobs done in the restoration shop contributes to bring Boaz & Ruth a little closer to becoming self sustaining.

Challenges: Describe any challenges your program currently faces.

One challenge is trying to raise funds to get a new roof for the 10,000 square ft. building and the Boaz & Ruth 3030 Meadowbridge Road location. Even with the effort that has went into roof repairs both buildings still have leakage.

What strategy will you employ to address these challenges?

Boaz & Ruth has received a grant which the organization had to match with their own funds in order to receive the monies needed for roof repairs. As a result of the matching grant we have been able to start roof repairs on the 10,000 sq. ft garage. The garage is now the dwelling space for a huge meeting room, office space, the Parable Furniture Restoration Shop and the Sunny Days clothing store.

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.

On Thursday, July 17th, 2008 Boaz & Ruth held its 6th Annual Discovering Diamonds Talent Search. The Talent Contest is an initiative that not only impacts the Highland Park Community and the individuals who participate; it is also a leadership learning opportunity for the Boaz & Ruth trainees. The trainees plan, organize and carry out the events under the tutelage of staff coaches. Over 200 people were in attendance from the community and Richmond's surrounding area. The crowd was mixed and diverse. Boaz & Ruth provided food and drink for

the event. Individuals from the community and people from the surrounding area of Richmond were provided with the opportunity to network with each other, form relationships and bond. The talent displayed was fresh and innovative. The winner was a lady who sung a gospel song which moved the whole crowd. On August 21st, 2008 Part II of the talent contest will take place. The winner from Part II of the contest will compete with the winner from Part I. The Grand Finale of the contest will take place September 13th, 2008 and the winner will walk away with the grand prize of One Thousand Dollars.

Part I of the talent contest was very successful; bring people together who may have never met. It encouraged individuals to come out and display their talent, provided leadership opportunities for Boaz & Ruth AmeriCorps members, it was a lot of fun and a great 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.

Wendell Randolph started the program as an AmeriCorps member January 28, 2008. He stated he came to Boaz & Ruth looking for a job. In fact for a short time he worked on the Boaz & Ruth DPW project. Wendell said it was too hard and resigned. A few months later he came back and applied to be an apprentice in the program.

a. When I asked Wendell to describe a typical day as a Boaz & Ruth / AmeriCorps member he responded: “the first thing I enjoy about the day is the morning groups”. Wendell called the classes motivational, especially the Core Beliefs class. Wendell stated, “the Core Belief class really makes my day, connecting me to what is spiritual and keeps my mind on what is positive”.

After class Wendell reports to his life lab / job where he has gotten on the job training in the field of Moving and storing furniture. Wendell said, “working with the Mountain Movers is relaxing. I always knew I could lift furniture; but through working with the Mountain Moving venture I found out I was lifting furniture the wrong way”. I am glad I learned the right way to lift. I no longer have any problems with my back, I know how to lift and have the proper equipment to work with.

b. Wendell stated that his most enlightening experience has been participating in the leadership component of the program. I am now the President of the Toastmasters Club here at Boaz & Ruth. I was invited to go to South Side Regional Jail on behalf of Boaz & Ruth as a representative. I did a presentation for staff and inmates. It was a good feeling going back to a jail not as a prisoner, knowing I could leave when I want to.

c. My attitude has changes since becoming a member of the Boaz & Ruth / AmeriCorps program. I have a positive attitude in opposition to the negative one I came with. I now want to accomplish something positive and I realize that I am slowly but surely accomplishing small goals each day.

d. Honestly speaking I would say that the Boaz & Ruth / AmeriCorps program is a self motivation program. The program will give you the tools to work with and make positive changes in your life. However; each individual who walks through the doors must be ready to use the tools.

People may think they are ready to change and may not be. There is an old saying, “You can take a horse to the water but you can’t make him drink 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

[Eric Atkinson](#) said on 8/15/08 at 02:46 PM
Lloyd/Veronica:

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

Thanks!
Steve

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