



## 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  
**Reporting Period:** August, 2006  
**Date this report completed:** September 11, 2006 at 3:17 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:** 1. During the month of August AC members Calvin Carter and Tony Williams worked diligently. Volunteer Jim Devito taught them how to install duct work for Central Heating & Air Systems. Looking at the blueprint it appeared to be a maze of trenches and crawl space under the house that had to be gotten in order to lay a trail of duct that was to be attached to underground vents. Not only underground, through out the whole house.  
 2. The last of the sheet rock was hung in August. Bringing closure to each room giving them all complete walls. In two weeks the walls will be primed and painted. After this process Boaz & Ruth will be looking to house one of its members as an overseer of the property.  
 3. Starting with the framing for the walls and windows, the electrical wiring, insulating the downstairs rooms inside, from the front of the house to the new added extension. Refurbishing the original old windows and frames and adding new windows. Insulating the interior of the walls outside and inside. Restoration of the roof and ceiling, pulling out the old floors, installing new ones. Completely re-wiring the house for electricity. Digging trenches to lay pipe for plumbing. Much has been done, and much has been gained, the community has one less house to blight the 1200 block of Giles Street. The AC members acquired skills they didn't come with.

The property value has increased; this is truly a win-win situation.

**Member Development:** 1. AC member Darlene Bell has successfully completed her year commitment in the BRACE AmeriCorps Program. Darlene now looks at life like a bowl full of opportunities. Darlene recently secured employment at the Virginia Union University in the Elson Building. Darlene is supervising the House Keeping Department. Darlene contributes her new found ability to supervise others to used skills gain from classes taken here at Boaz & Ruth: Team Leadership Awareness, Conflict Resolution and the Life Labs where she gained on-the-job experience. Darlene's attention to detail has already been noted by staff at Virginia Union University. She said "people are expressing notice of how she brings a special touch". The Dean has made a special request that Darlene be changed from part-time with full time hours, too a Full Time Employee. Looking back at when Darlene began with Boaz & Ruth, I must say she has accomplished a lot, but, in her own words Darlene said "Boaz & Ruth has given me a better attitude. I really use to be very negative, but the conflict resolution class changed my whole attitude. I now have more self control I have learned how to approach life in a positive way."

**Strengthening Communities:** The Boaz & Ruth Beyond Dialogue Series started again 8/16/2006. Most of the people who attended can't wait for the next session and claimed the first one ended too soon. Participants and facilitators are exclaiming that they are experiencing extraordinary bonding and an opportunity to communicate that reaches beyond ordinary

occurrences / communications. One of our number 1 volunteers Mike Meacham reported that the last session ended too soon, he was just coming to a point where he knew a paradigm shift was taking place; when he was listening to the plight of what another man said. "The men in his ethnic group are experiencing depression not anger." Mike said "I think his point was as result of depression they won't strive to do any better. Change wasn't occurring because of depression." The people in Beyond Dialogue this time see each other as relative. That is they are a part of each other as a race, the human race.

**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).**

In the month of August Boaz & Ruth experienced additional phone calls from the general public, people who wanted to make donations of time, money and items. The response had a lot to do with Channel 12 NBC News doing a Special Feature on the Boaz & Ruth Program in the month of July. Donations are being received on a consistent basis, our inventory is strong, and we are better able to replace items on the sales floor immediately when they are sold or placed on Lay-Away. I brought up Lay-Away because it is a process Boaz & Ruth has implemented to help people buy expensive high quality items that are donated who would otherwise not be able to afford them. I myself am a wonderful owner of a full length all leather sofa that would retail for the price of \$7,000 to \$12,000 dollars. I brought it for the grand total of \$600.00. The retail stores run by Boaz & Ruth are another venue used to help bring us closer to self sustainability.

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

No information reported

**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 month of August Boaz & Ruth held its 4th Annual Discovering Diamonds Talent Search" Part II. A Boaz & Ruth "Connecting Across Richmond" event.

1. AC members John McNealy, Charles Satchel and Alan Webb planned and organized the August, 2006 "Discovering Diamonds Talent Search Part II".
2. This was a first for John McNealy he went about planning it in a very organized way. John was instrumental in setting up the auditions and planning the menu. He used an innovative approach when planning a marketing strategy that would bring in a diverse group of entertainers.
3. The turn out for the event was even larger than Part One. There were over 13 participants who demonstrated wonderful talent which made it hard for the judges to pick a winner. The community, people from Richmond and the surrounding area came out in full force. Needless to say the event was a complete 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 Beatrice Robinson came to us in the month of September, 2005. Beatrice is energetic, enthusiastic and quick to learn. She actively participates in all classes absorbing all the information she can. Beatrice is now The President of Toastmasters Chapter for the Six Points of Hope.

- a. "A typical day is classes and life lab. My life lab titles are Director of First Impressions and Operations Aid. I receive guests when they arrive, answer all incoming calls, direct calls to the appropriate persons, take messages, set up appointments, logistics, and schedule man power hours.
- b. Beyond Dialogue. I hated Beyond Dialogue, sitting there talking about slaves, watching slave movies, plantation owners and all the physical, mental and spiritual abuse. However, as I continued to participate I began to appreciate and understand, "It's not just my history it's our history". It is shared history. I thought no white man had history with a black man. As I started to see points of courage, relationship develop despite differences. It enlightened me bringing about a change in me."
- c. "I have changed as result of the emotional intelligence course, through development of spirituality, due to participating in Beyond Dialogue. Also, learning computer skills have changed my life."
- d. I would use on word, RESURRECTION.

**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 9/13/06 at 01:00 PM  
Lloyd/Veronica:

As always - terrific report!!!

However, it appears that proof-reading of the report is still not taking place before submission. Please review my comments from previous monthly and quarterly reports that stress the importance of spelling and grammar review before submission.

The last correspondance we had concerning this issue indicated that you would have someone proof read the reports before submission.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Steve

## Add a Comment

---

[Home](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Syndication](#) | [Technical Assistance](#) | [Contact](#)

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)