



## 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, Site Administrator

**Reporting Period:** August, 2007

**Date this report completed:** September 10, 2007 at 1:23 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:** In the month of August the Old Historic Fire Station was transformed and the results are astounding. The dilapidated appearance of peeling paint has vanished. All plastering in the bay area was completed. The rooms which will be occupied by vendors as retail stores were sanded, primed and painted. These rooms now have new ceiling fans and light fixtures. The ceiling which was in atrocious condition is now a marvel to look at. It has been scrapped, sanded, primed and painted. The layers of old paint on the wood beams in the ceiling have been patiently hand removed by Ameri Corps members. The majestic wooden beams are now sanded, stained and are beautiful to look at.

The bathrooms now have walls that were not there previously. Toilets and sinks have been installed. Floors in the bathroom area that had decayed and caved in have been filled in and restored. All of the plumbing and electrical work has been completed providing the building with air conditioning, heat and running water.

The Douglas Doors for the front entrance have been custom made and installed. The training received by Ameri Corps members in the making and installation of these doors are valuable skills.

One of the most impressive new features at the Fire Station is a new parking lot. The parking lot will provide off street parking for customers. An enormous amount of work took place during the month of August and many skills were gained by members.

**Member Development:** Under the tutelage of David Armmington Ameri Corps members Calvin Carter and Barry Williams have been assigned the position of Team Leaders at the Old Historic Fire Station. Calvin and Barry are passing skills learned on to other AC members at the work site. All Ameri Corps members attended the (plastering class). However; Calvin and Barry mastered the plastering skills. These two Ameri Corps members were enlisted by the plastering instructor to do renovations and plastering repairs. The repairs were made in the John Marshall Home a Historic land mark in downtown Richmond.

All Ameri Corps members have become proficient in the areas of: carpentry, plumbing, dry wall hanging and other skills associated with restoration and renovation of old buildings.

Calvin and Barry took to heart the lessons taught in the areas of group dynamics, organization of field projects, how to collaborate with peers and staff to get the job done, being accountable, carrying out tasks in a timely manner and learning to learn. They have also related job

responsibilities to other aspects of their lives. It is with the same zeal that they show towards work that they can be seen applying them selves to the dedication of restoring their relationships with family, friends and the community.

Calvin and Barry have an undaunting devotion to family and it is through deeds done to repair and restore relationships that their commitment can be seen by others.

**Strengthening Communities:** Boaz & Ruth is proving to be a true strength to the community of Highland Park. Through the restoration of the Giles Street House and the Old Historic Fire Station the area has a new pulse. In the month of August 2007 Boaz & Ruth has closed the deal on obtaining three new properties in the community. Another home adjacent to Boaz & Ruth's main location 3030 Meadowbridge Road has been acquired. It is located on Giles street and is in the process of being renovated. Across the street on Meadowbridge Road we have been blessed with a building that the Catering Department can operate out of. In addition the building next to the Old Historic Fire Station has been obtained. It is with a humble and joyous heart that I can report that these buildings will provide opportunities for Ameri Corps and community members. It will be community members and individuals from Richmond and the surrounding area who will be opening shops at the Old Historic Fire Station Mini Mall. The new home acquired will provide shelter for those in need. Furthermore, the building next to the Fire Station will provide space Boaz & Ruth has been in need of for a long time.

**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 Informational Lunches held every first Tuesday and third Thursday of the month continues to bring in volunteers, donations, mentors and develop community interest. During the month of August Ameri Corps and Boaz & Ruth members made presentations to individuals who attended the luncheons. The AC members have been trained or are training in the area of Speech Presentation. The Toastmasters classes held here at Boaz & Ruth is providing the necessary training. The presentations prepared by members include the vision statement of Boaz & Ruth and how the vision has touched the trainee's life. These orally communicated presentations prepared by members inspire and move the listeners to become involved in the Boaz & Ruth program. Many volunteers, donations and resources received are results from people who attended one of the many informational luncheons.

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

One challenge faced was implementing a (Personal Development Plan) process for all Boaz & Ruth members. The process is to help members identify strengths, weaknesses and areas they can improve on. Goal setting is done and a time line established to monitor progress.

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

During the month of August a consultant experienced in the field of business planning was retained. The consultant worked with trainees to develop personal development plans that catered to fundamental needs and future aspirations. It is our belief that the establishment of goals will provide additional motivation to achieve.

**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 August 16th Boaz & Ruth held Part Two of the 5th Discovering Diamonds Talent Search Contest. Interviews were conducted by Ameri Corps members: Beatrice Robinson, Dwight Claxton and Lynn Bullock. The Ameri Corps members selected all participants. Over Two hundred and fifty people turned out for the festivities. The talent seen this August ranged from good to fantastic. A 13 year old boy played the harp and the music was beautiful. Another participant was a rapper with spiritual lyrics who truly moved the crowd. A group of men sang like the old Temptations, they could truly harmonize and the sound was soulful.

With the five winners from Part One of the contest and five more winners from Part Two there will be ten contestants who will compete in the finals for the Grand Prize. It will be the first time in Boaz & Ruth history that (ten) contestants will compete in the finals. The event was a tremendous success, people from Richmond and the surrounding area showed up in full force.

**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.**

Norman Mayo started at Boaz & Ruth as an Ameri Corps member in January 2007. He has diligently applied his self to doing something different with his life. Norman stated that he was at his wits end when he came to Boaz & Ruth. He said he was consistently denied employment due to having a criminal background.

Norman responded to the questions asked as follows:

a. Norman expressed a true enthusiasm for going to the morning classes. He is clearly excited about learning information which will produce positive results in his life. Norman claims the principles that are taught in the Spirituality Class are practical tools. Tools such as trust, honesty, being accountable, ethics and morals will enable him to perform well when doing anything.

After class Norman is assigned to the Diamond Café. There Norman is learning how to own and or operate a small business. He is being taught skills such as: customer service, inventory control and purchasing, applying sales and use tax, food service preparation. Norman said he loves to satisfy his customers.

b. My incarceration of 31 years was violent; violence was all that I knew. I thought everyone was mean and hateful. I did not believe there was good in anyone especially me. However, since coming to Boaz & Ruth my most enlightening experience is that there are good people in the world. On a daily basis I get to network with people I would have never meet, I am greeted cheerfully by many. What truly astonished me is that I have found some good and wholesome things in me.

c. One thing that has changed about me is that I now get up at 4:00 a.m. everyday and report for work. That is something I have never done, being accountable, responsible and dependable.

d. Being a part of this organization will provide people with an eye opening experience. Individuals will be taught about: healthy relationships, business management, how to be responsible, managing your finances, leadership skills and maintaining good health. I would recommend Boaz & Ruth to anyone that is ready to make a positive change in their lives.

**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 9/18/07 at 03:00 PM  
Lloyd/Veronica:

Great report - as usual!

I have saved it as approved.

Thanks!  
Steve

PS. Please note that AmeriCorps is one word :-)

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