



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: February, 2007

Date this report completed: March 12, 2007 at 8:43 AM

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 Old Historic Fire Station is a marvel to look at in its present state; even with the work that has already taken place there is still peeling paint that appears to be slivers of skin coming off the walls. The inside structure of bare walls seem to be skeletal devoid of the sheetrock. However, in February David Armington, the instructor, reported that the rough-ins by the mechanical contractors, electricians and plumbers was done. One of the things we did was to excavate a trench about 20 feet long, through about 8 inches of concrete, to lay new drain and supply lines. It was good experience for the AC members. They learned how to operate a jack hammer and work together as a team to move a fair amount of concrete. They also framed 4 partition walls for the framing of the bathrooms, which is excellent framing experience. Two access hatches were built to the storage space in the attic and we began to lay a 24" catwalk around the perimeter of the building so the mechanical subcontractors can have easy access to do their work. AC members are continuing work on the windows, primarily painting and glazing; all the original windows are glazed and painted waiting to be hung. The group of 14 new windows has all the glass installed and is in the process of being painted. Also, a lot of work was done on one room to establish a complete model of what the other rooms will be like.

In addition, the upstairs rooms of the Giles Street House were completely finished in February. The banister, base boards, fire alarms, vents, and windows were installed, and all the carpeting has been laid. The transformation is amazing. The work remaining to be done downstairs is carpeting that must be laid in the living room and completing the stairs. The Giles Street House will be 100 percent complete before the end of March. The house has also passed the mechanical and plumbing inspections fully. Tyrone Moses, Marcus Lane, Sr., Barry Williams, John Coles, Charles Thomas and Calvin Carter, with the expertise of Volunteer and instructor Jim Devito, are doing a wonderful job.

Member Development: AC member Jeannette Cain came to Boaz & Ruth, August, 2006. Jeannette said she was simply looking for a job. After being interviewed, she realized it was much more than just a job. Jeannette stated that it was an opportunity for self-improvement. She felt learning a job skill was a plus. Jeannette said, "I have always worked in hotels, cleaning; coming to Boaz & Ruth was a blessing for me." Jeannette is one of the enthusiastic members when it comes to attending classes. She stated that the Conflict Resolution class has taught her that conflict can take place without physical or mental abuse. "I have learned to stop and think before acting." Also, she said the Toastmasters class has been beneficial in teaching her how to address groups of people, something she never thought she could do. Jeannette has been training in the Retail Sales Department of Boaz & Ruth. She has become competent in the

areas of: antique appraisal, writing sales receipts with use taxes added, selling merchandise, customer relations, and interior design. Jeannette shows promise; she can work unsupervised and takes initiative to do tasks related to her training without being instructed.

Strengthening Communities: On February 26th through the 28th, volunteers from Furman University of South Carolina came to Boaz & Ruth as volunteers. The students participated in the 2-hour class sessions each day. The interactions shared between the AC members and the students will probably stay with all who participated on both sides. It is not every day that students get to see that ex-felons are not the stereotypes depicted by society. The students got

to see they are simply people who have made mistakes and are trying to salvage and recover the rest of their lives. Furman students also helped with the restoration efforts at the Old Historic Fire Station. They painted inside walls, remove debris and painted the small building that is also a part of the Fire Station. All-in-all, what took place during their visit strengthened a small piece of fabric in society.

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).

February was an industrious time for the Boaz & Ruth Mountain Movers. Business is picking up; more people are finding out the business exists. I was told that whenever we schedule a pick-up for donations people are told about this service. At all the informational luncheons people are told. When AC members do a presentation to any group of people, they are told about Mountain Mover and encouraged to use the service. In addition, word-of-mouth advertising from satisfied customers is valuable. Mountain Movers are busier than ever. Our donation scheduling department shared with me that in the month of February we got more calls for moving jobs than we receive for pick-ups for donations. Boaz & Ruth's Mountain Movers furniture moving venue is well on its way to success.

Challenges: Describe any challenges your program currently faces.

One challenge in the month of February was getting community people involved in the restoration that is going on at the Old Historic Fire Station.

What strategy will you employ to address these challenges?

Our marketing department put out flyers and a large banner was placed on the Fire Station informing the community of the next Fire Station Committee Meeting. Over 40 community members turned out for the first meeting advertised. We were truly impressed. There were only six committee members and now there are over twenty.

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.

February 15th was an exceptional day. Boaz & Ruth's AC members put on a special play for Black History Month. The play, titled "CHANGES", portrayed an Inner-City Troubled Youth with the mindset of a hoodlum, who was visited by great African Ancestral Ghosts, including Shaka Zulu, Harriett Tubman, Imhotep, Father of Egyptian Medicine, and others. All seats were filled. People from Richmond and the surrounding area attended in support of Boaz & Ruth. All AC members participated. The play was reviewed as being excellent. It was written by AC member Charles Fuller and all of the actors were AC members. The crowd was

enthralled by each of their performances. 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.

Darryl Jefferson started as an AC member in September of 2006. I asked Darryl the questions required and I will simply quote him.

“a. I get two hours schooling and six hours job training. The (Conflict Resolution) classes has shown me how to turn my feelings into a poster where I can look at them and I design them to where I can handle situations differently than how I use to. The (Core Beliefs) classes have gotten me in touch with my inner self, which is helping me to deal with my day-to-day life, my job, and community.

“b. The most enlightening thing I have experienced is the change that has taken place in me. Applying myself, participating and listening in the classes have afforded me the opportunity for change that I would never have experienced if I were not a part of this program.

“c. Certain things that were a part of the old inner me, which I used to suppress, I don't have to any more. I have learned to deal with my problems in a different fashion. I can still say what I need to using a different choice of words. I am more flexible, ironing out my problems instead of avoiding or suppressing them.

“d. I would say to the ex-offender or anyone that is out there and really has not had a chance from society to obtain employment, that does not have any kind of trade or know how to earn a living, this is a good place for them to start. It may be a stepping stone, maybe not what they expect it to be, but it will be what they need.

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 3/14/07 at 01:12 PM

Veronica,

Outstanding report!! I have saved it as approved.

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 | D