



## 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:** July, 2006

**Date this report completed:** August 4, 2006 at 12:17 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. The continued restoration on Giles Street House in July was astonishing to see. The momentum which picked up in June was apparent. Sheetrock was installed in every room downstairs.

2. The upstairs sheetrock installation is complete, with the exception of the area where AC members are being trained to install duct work for Central Heat and Air.

3. AC members Calvin Carter and Tony Williams have gained skills, making them a marketable commodity and an asset. They could choose to start a small business in the Home Restoration field or specialize in "restoring antique windows, framing, plumbing, insulation, sheetrock hanging, electrical wiring" when the time comes to enter the work force.

**Member Development:** 1. AC members Charles Satchel, Alan Webb and Geraldine Williams planned & organized the July, 2006 "Discovering Diamonds Talent Search".

2. Every AC member is afforded the opportunity to Plan a Special Event, where they can utilize learned Team Leadership skills. Provided with this occasion, Geraldine, Charles and Alan organized the committees which would be responsible for: food service, set-up of floor plans, advertisement, auditions, obtaining Judges and many additional behind the scenes details. Various leadership skills were used: the ability to get the committees to function harmoniously, helping them to stay focused on goals assigned and working with them until the tasks were complete.

3. It stirs the human spirit to see positive change taking place in people. I must say Geraldine, Charles and Alan did a wonderful job; the event was a complete success. People from the community and the surrounding Richmond City area attended

**Strengthening Communities:** 1. The Old Fire Station on Meadowbridge Road in the Richmond City Highland Park area has stood vacant and uninhabitable for years. A decaying building waiting to be restored.

2. It has long been a Boaz & Ruth vision to turn the Old Fire Station into a Neighborhood Mini Mall: a place that will eliminate a little more blight from the Six Point Corridor, which is much in need of revitalization; a place where community members can experience entrepreneurship, family shopping, wireless internet and much more.

3. It is with great pride that I can now report Boaz & Ruth has started work on the restoration of the Old Fire Station. BRACE AmeriCorps members are now being taught antique windows restoration and roof repairing.

**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 July Channel 12 NBC News aired a special feature story on the Boaz & Ruth Program.

Newscaster Sabrina Squire captured the innovation and spirit of the people and program. The story featured all the different venues, the skills being taught, the opportunities being given, AC members expressing a vision of light at the end of the tunnel. AC members Ruth Cosby, Beatrice Robinson and Charles Satchel manned the phones at the Channel 12 station location during the broadcast. After the first clip was viewed the phones constantly rang. People from all over the City of Richmond, Petersburg and in some cases Northern Virginia called to donate time, items, and expertise in different fields. Many callers were in need of help. An assortment of people exclaimed "I never knew Boaz & Ruth existed." Well, now they do! The exposure received from being aired on NBC Channel 12 News produced more shoppers, donations, volunteers and opportunities for partnership with other organizations.

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

In the month of July Boaz & Ruth was faced with the challenge of re-scheduling class time from the mornings to the afternoons due to the extreme heat wave taking place here in Virginia. Coordinating the schedules and class with the Life Labs not only takes the cooperation of Staff, but the AC members and apprentices as well.

After a long day in the heat, AC members and Boaz & Ruth members are not as animated / alert in class as they would have been in the morning.

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

Department Heads, Staff and BRACE AmeriCorps members have addressed the issues and are examining strategies that will provide solutions. However; when the heat wave passes class schedules can the normal time.

**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 July Boaz & Ruth held its 4th Annual Discovering Diamonds Talent Search," a Boaz & Ruth "Connecting Across Richmond" event.

What makes the Discovering Diamond Search Talent Contest special is that it encourages people from the Community, the City of Richmond, and the surrounding areas to come out and demonstrate their talents. This was Part One of the contest; there were many contestants, three finalists and one winner who will compete against Part two's winner in the Grand Finale September 30, 2006.

It is a special thing to get a glimpse of the good, creative and productive qualities that are invisible to us unless shared by others. The event was wonderful, the talent displayed in many cases was exceptionally good, and it must have been a tough decision for the judges to come up with a winner. People from all over Richmond came out for the event. The camaraderie shared by community, family, friends and the surrounding Richmond area was warm and refreshing. The event was a wonderful 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 Edbert Smith started the BRACE Program here at Boaz & Ruth on September 14, 2005.

Edbert is quick to say “I am a tough case when it comes to change; however I know it’s something I must do.” In response to the questions:

a. I feel a little chaotic when I first arrive until we have our morning affirmations connecting in a spirit of camaraderie. I have gained a lot from all the classes, but the Conflict Resolution Class has served me in a practical way. I no longer choose to settle matters physically with aggression. I also like the Life Lab because I get to use real life experience with practical application of what I learned in class.

b. The amount of people I have been afforded the opportunity to network with since I have been a part of BRACE Program includes Governor Mark Warner, Governor Tim Kane, Mayor Doug Wilder, Senator Henry Marsh, Police Chief Rodney Monroe, Sheriff C.T. Woody, Richmond City Council Member Ellen Robertson and an assortment of General Assembly Members.

c. I am a kinder and gentler American. I am no longer the nightmare I use to be. I am an American Dream, a success story.

d. Edbert simply stated “Look at me now and how I have changed”.

**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 8/31/06 at 01:34 PM  
Lloyd/Veronica,

Wonderful report as usual!! Sorry it took me so long to review and reply.

Keep up the good work!

Steve

## Add a Comment

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