



## 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:** November, 2006

**Date this report completed:** December 8, 2006 at 12:29 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 restoration that has taken place in the month of November at the Giles street house has given it a crisp pristine appearance on the outside and in some inside areas. The outside of the house has been completely painted in light green and trimmed in white. The up stairs bathroom has ceramic tile now. Laying the tile, cutting it and applying grout are skills that can be used in many ways. Volunteer Jim Devito, said he used ceramic in the bathroom for the training it will provide. Kitchen cabinets have been installed giving the kitchen a whole new dimension. AC member Calvin Carter, Bilal Salahuddin, Charles Thomas and Leonard Bullock are continuing to gain valuable skills.

**Member Development:** AC member Kevin Hopkins started the BRACE AmeriCorps program in October, 2006. Kevin being a skilled furniture mover started working with the Mountain Movers venue of the Boaz & Ruth program. From observation Kevin was perceived as being selfish and unwilling to teach others. After sitting in classes such as Conflict Resolution, Healthy Family, Core Beliefs and other classes that deal with emotional competency, Kevin has began the process of developing a new attitude about his self and others. He has learned there are aspects of the Moving business he must know to own and operate his own company. In the process Kevin is passing on the knowledge of handling furniture without damaging it and developing the skill to lead people without damaging their feelings. I see him trying to help build their self esteem as his esteem of self develops.

**Strengthening Communities:** Andrew Stagger is one of our local community members who are excited about the Fire Station Mini Mall project. Currently he sells his merchandise on the sidewalk located across the street from the Fire Station. He said, I cannot wait until the day when I will actually have a store from where I can sell my inventory. No longer having to sell from my van and portable stands": Mr. Stigger is just one of the many community people who will have the opportunity to open a store inside the Mini Mall. The restoration of the Fire Station is in full force now. The roof has been completely restored; floors have been gutted and pulled out awaiting restoration. 99% of the building has been painted and trimmed taking away some of the blight of that block. Fifty University of Richmond students' volunteers came and helped with the outside exterior painting. The Fire Station restoration is providing training opportunities for AC members and opportunities for people in the community.

**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).**

November was a prosperous month for the Mountain Movers Venue of Boaz & Ruth. Business is picking up; there were five wonderful moving jobs that generated revenue helping Boaz & Ruth come closer to being self sustaining. AC members Joshua Stiff, Kevin Hopkins and Reggie Horton put an extensive amount of energy into making the Mountain Movers venue work. Josh works hard at orchestrating the dates and times and other paper work that is involved. Kevin Hopkins is learning the administrative side of the business and Reggie Horton is picking up skills in all areas. The men work as a tight unit from the paper work to the customer relations they all contribute to the success of the moving venue. AC member Kevin Hopkins can be seen on our web site dealing with a customer who explained how pleased she was with the service.

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

The challenge of meeting individual needs that are having a difficult time in the area of emotional competency was an issue that was addressed in the month of November.

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

A special staff meeting was held; a Clinical Psychologist attended the meeting to provide training on how to address member's problem areas and how to respond in a consistent way as staff in dealing with members.

Staff was taught to not be antiseptic when responding, find out what are the challenges and issues members are facing. How to redirect their energy; make the right referrals for private counseling and more.

**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.**

Boaz & Ruth's first graduation class was small but strong, the first four trainees paved the way, digging trenches for pipes, hanging dry wall, tearing down walls and putting them up, laying tile and much more. This November 16th, 2006 Boaz & Ruth held its 4th Annual Graduation; the graduating class consisted of Nine Graduates, to see such an increase was wonderful. The Ceremony took place at Richmond City's Police Academy. Police Chief Rodney Monroe was one of the prominent speakers who attended. His speech was one of pride in the graduates, he stated they no longer look to society for hand outs nor do they depend on the system to care for them. Their transition decreases the rate of recidivism. Three of the Graduates were AC members Charles Fuller, Latasha Williams and Alan Webb. The three graduates are now in their Post Graduate period here at Boaz & Ruth, giving back some of what they learned to new trainees, adding on to skills learned and fine tuning skills already obtained.

**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.**

Gregory Crutchfield came to Boaz & Ruth with an attitude of reluctance. He became an active AC member October 16, 2006. After sitting in on the Core Belief, Conflict Resolution, Communications, The Greatest Salesman and Healthy Family classes he started to adapt to the expectations of our organization. Always willing to go beyond what was expected of him Greg is doing well.

When I asked him to be interviewed he was well into setting up for a catering job. However; he said "I can work and answer your questions too". Greg is a man of few words, thus his answers were short and to the point.

a. My classes from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. are very important to me. One of the main classes

that stand out for me is the Lay Health Promoter Program class. Because I am interested in what keeps people healthy.

b. Meeting people who I would never get the chance to meet, especially the college kids, they come with a lot of knowledge. I have met the Mayor, Governor and many other prominent personalities. The opportunities for networking are limitless.

c. I have become even more reliable, I have others depending on me and I am consistently there for them.

d. It is the opportunity to seek God and practice his principles in your life. I have been granted the opportunity to find my self in the process. I would recommend this program to anyone who is ready to make a 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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