

MAY- JUNE 2019

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

## Know Your Worth

*"You must find the courage to leave the table if respect is no longer served." Tene Edwards*

Teenagers vote with their feet. Jason and Amanda, unlike their younger cohorts, walk to Restore right after their school day. After school hours are prime times for teens to get in trouble with the law, experiment with drugs and alcohol, and engage in other risky behaviors. To escape the negative effects of the streets, Jason and Amanda and the other teens, have made Restore their second home.

Over 15 million youths in the United States, the majority of whom are teens, are alone and unsupervised between the hours of three and seven. For various reasons, including costs, lack of knowledge, and disinterest, among others, only about 15 percent of them participate in programs that challenge and engage them during the after-school hours.

To bring this statistic locally, there are about 23,000 students in the Elizabeth Public Schools and so statically, 3450 participate in afterschool programs. Without a doubt, more parents and teenagers can benefit from membership in high quality afterschool programs. Those who attend do better in academic subjects in school and have improved attendance. Attendance can reduce the risk of high school drop-out. Drug use and sexual activity are also reduced for those attending after school



activities. The benefits are well worth the time spent looking for and matching up the teen with an after-school program.

In Elizabeth, there are the Boys and Girls Club, The Music Institute for Children, Restore, and city run centers. YMCAs and Libraries also offer programs for youths of all ages. City Parks and Recreation Departments often offer after-school programs at low or no cost. Additionally, many schools, churches and religious institutions offer youth groups, field trips, and a safe place for teens to get together with friends.

It takes time to build a good relationship with teenagers. The key is to

find a place that is opened during the critical hours during when teens are most at risk. Teens join these after school programs because the programs respect and understand them and in return teens who go, invite their friend and make those programs their second homes.



## Executive Director's Message

**“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Helen Keller**

Jose, a hard-working father, stopped me while I was walking to work. He shared that he wished he understood financial aid better and would have waited and not accepted the \$20,000 loan for the fourteen-month certificate program that wasn't helpful. He wanted a degree that would have helped fulfill his dream of owning a food truck.

Jose is now in his mid-thirties. He's happily married and has teenage children. He and his wife struggle working paycheck to paycheck to meet their everyday basics. He says he has to pay back the loan before he can even think about owning a business.

Johnny just finished his first year at the local community college. Restore helped by explaining the financial aid process to him and his parents. We introduced him to a Restore donor who works at his

college. Johnny keeps himself connected to Restore by volunteering. Johnny has good to excellent grades and wants to get his associates degree and transfer to a four-year university.

Both men were high school graduates. They were never in gangs, nor on probation and never were arrested. They come from tight knit loving families. Their parents did the best they knew how in pushing their children to finish high school and to get better jobs than they have. Both parents made decisions that impacted on the opportunities facing their sons. For Jose it lead to high debt and delaying his dreams. As for Johnny, he has a very good chance of getting an affordable, high-quality college degree that will help him reach his career choice.

Yet, far too many students, especially in underserved groups and communities like Elizabeth, do not further their education after high school. A degree beyond high school is still the best predictor of

success for urban youth. Students who earn a college degree are five times likelier to escape poverty. They're also healthier and happier: less likely to commit crimes or suffer from illness, and more likely to volunteer, vote—even live longer. Restore high school students do transition to high quality trade schools and colleges.

You are a powerful influencer in our students' lives. Your prayers and ongoing donations to Restore enables Ximena and me needed time with our students and their families to help them make better decisions about colleges and trade schools. Restore youth brag to others outside of Restore that they have people, and most of them they don't even know, who support and believe in them. It makes all of us accountable to try harder and to take good risks. Together we can see more of our students making better choices like Johnny and fewer ending with missed opportunities like Jose.



## 5K Run/Walk

**HELP RESTORE MINISTRIES, INC. REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$15,000.**

[HTTPS://RESTORE5K.GREATFEATS.COM](https://restore5k.greatfeats.com)

### Location

Oak Ridge Park  
Clark, NJ. USA



### Date

Sunday, June 2, 2019  
Starts at: 7:30AM - Ends at 10:45AM



<https://restorekids.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/restorekids/>  
**lbagby2002@yahoo.com**  
**908-400-3293**

## SPONSORSHIP CORNER

## 5K RUN/WALK

\* Our children are doing amazing!  
 If you like to sponsor any of them please go to their website  
 Thank you in advance for your generosity



**Joshua** has raised \$300 and  
 he would like to raise an additional \$450  
<https://restore5k.greatfeats.com/joshua-fassett>



**Ariana** has raised \$29 and  
 she would like to raise an additional \$721  
<https://restore5k.greatfeats.com/ariana-houghton>



**Kevin** has raised \$29 and  
 he would like to raise an additional \$721  
<https://restore5k.greatfeats.com/kevin-houghton>



**Steven** has raised \$236 and  
 he would like to raise an additional \$514  
<https://restore5k.greatfeats.com/steven-bechara>



**Nicholas** has raised \$31 and  
 he would like to raise an additional \$719  
<https://restore5k.greatfeats.com/nicholas-bechara>





# Restore Summer Camp

Serving Urban Youth



REALIZING...  
POTENTIAL...  
MAXIMIZING...  
ACHIEVEMENT...

From July 1 to August 2, children and teenagers will spend six hours a day having fun with the Restore summer staff and Junior Leaders Staff. We provide training for staff and Junior staff and CPR & First Aid certification.

Students on Monday through Friday participate in sports activities, learning fun math games, icebreakers, arts & crafts and sharing in reading groups. All day exciting field trips and more are offered during the month.

Our program develops skills and talents that children and teenagers can utilize at home, at school and apply to everyday situations.

Our goal for the summer is to provide young people and teenagers a safe place to have fun, learn and grow together.

*Ximena Carrasco*