

# CAUGHT DOING GOOD



Substance Abuse Training



Kid's Spot - Hang Out Time



Homework Center

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are expanding our outreach to youth and families. We have a new parent's support group and a tween girls Bible study. Our goal is to empower urban youth to discover and fulfill their God-given purpose.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up.*

*- Galatians 6:9*

**You should have seen his face.** Kenny's\* eyes beamed over his neatly written homework with a healthy sense of pride. "Ms. Dana! Look at all the homework I did by myself!" The 3rd grader continued, "Can you call my mom...and let her know how good I did!?" This moment was in stark contrast to the boy whose eyes wandered as he struggled to complete his homework only a few months before.



New Tween "Pretty Girl" Bible Study

We first met Kenny at our free summer program at Elmhurst Park. He came with his younger brother and loved to play football and soccer. When school started, Kenny began coming to our Neighborhood Ministry House for homework help.

In the beginning Kenny would sit at Homework Center, tears streaking down his face with his thumb in his mouth. As staff we were surprised to watch this 9 year old regress to the behavior of a young child, seemingly out of frustration with his homework. Often he would sit distraught and idle, sometimes for over 30 minutes. We told Kenny, **"Don't give up. Don't give up!"**

One day we found him deliberately sniffing markers at the table. With love and concern over this behavior and his struggle with schoolwork, we reached out to Kenny's mom. She confided that he was having similar struggles in school.

## WHO ARE OUR YOUTH?

Within our 13-street neighborhood, there are 450 children and youth under the age of 19. During the school year, we have points of connection with 50-60 young people and in the summer 250+ youth.

**Moments like these are heart-wrenching.** Scripture encourages us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2) *But how?* It is a huge challenge just to understand what Kenny is going through. Many of us in urban ministries, school settings, and youth work operate at times with simple faith, believing that the miraculous will happen as we follow God's instruction to love others "in actions and in truth." (I John 3:18) We have to believe that our consistent presence and love will make a difference. At times, it is all we may know how to do!



Dominoes with local teens

So we kept being available, kept loving, and encouraging Kenny. **And then the AMAZING happened.** We cannot explain it other than God supernaturally at work. After a short hiatus Kenny returned to Homework Center and his attitude was changed. He began to push through his daily battles with schoolwork. We sat right beside him, his eyes now *focused* on his work, speaking into his ears, **"You can do it. You can do it!"**

When it was time to visit Kenny's mom again, she opened the door and said, "What did he do now? I won't send him over anymore." It was pure delight to say to her, **"We just want you to know Kenny is doing great!"** We love to tell parents when we catch their children doing good. It brought a smile to her face, and like Kenny, her eyes beamed too.

(Continued on backside)

\* name and minor details changed

The Boston Project's staff and volunteers are committed to working with young people; **our passion is to help them discover and fulfill their God-given purpose.** Our drop-in Homework Center is just one place where youth can receive extra homework help, while staff also care for their social, physical, and spiritual needs.

**Pray for us as we prepare for our summer ministry.** We plan to offer free, drop-in programs at our local city park for six weeks along with evening outreach programs for families and teens, including employment opportunities for 20-25 teenagers.

**Special Thanks** to the **Lenny Zakim Fund** for the recent grant award for our youth work. We also appreciate the **Black Ministerial Alliance** for choosing us to participate in their 18-month capacity building program to improve our evaluation and youth outcomes.



"Real Life" Teen Bible Study

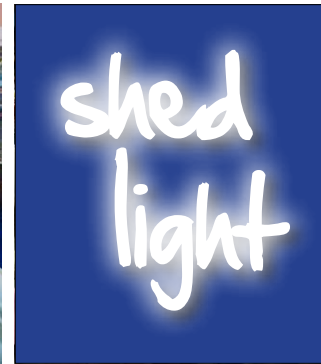
*To find out more about our outreach to youth and families in our neighborhood, and to donate towards these programs, visit our website at [www.tbpm.org](http://www.tbpm.org).*



Jr. High Service Day



"Kid's Spot" Bible study for kids



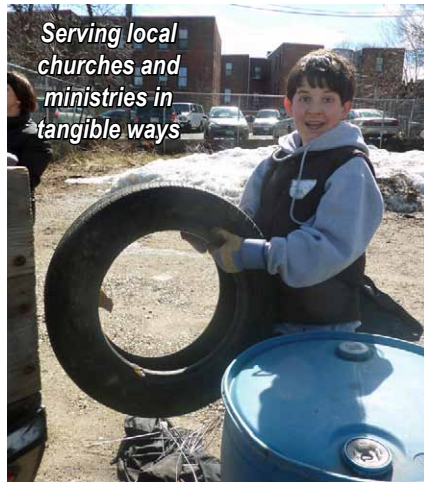
Calvin College students joined us this spring break

This poem was composed by Shaulita, who is 14-years old, and staff member Nyasha. They wanted to capture the heart of our ministry in verse. We hope you are inspired!

*Besieged by the pain of this world  
frustration fills the heart and  
becomes its practice  
to be observed by its devout followers  
of the lost and lonely.  
Who will care for them, who will  
give them hope?  
But something within stirs.  
A small but evident spark, a fire even.  
To shed light in this dark world, to be the  
hand to pull back the lost from becoming  
the inevitable product of hurt and pain.  
To introduce a new heart practice:  
Loving others as one loves himself.  
I will answer, "Here I am, send me,"  
with the hope that that fire will soon  
warm their hearts.*



President Obama visited our neighborhood in March



Serving local churches and ministries in tangible ways



Neighbors gather to welcome the President



Helping a neighbor clean her attic for insulation



TNT Neighborhood Meeting



Making homemade sleeping bags for those homeless

Pictured are some of our spring events, including a visit from President Obama (he drove right past our street) and many volunteer service days. We want to thank all of the churches, ministries, and organizations that partnered with us so far in 2011!



## Restorer of Streets with Dwellings

For the 6th year in a row, we hosted 15+ students from Calvin College for a spring break service trip. As we served together in the community, we also studied Isaiah 58. **The insights from scripture were profound.** One student pointed out that God calls us to “rebuild” and “raise up” things that are broken, and that we will be called “Repairers” and “Restorers.” What stood out to us was the fact that God promises not to abandon the old and broken things, but to start with them and restore them to their intended purpose.

**The students went on to reflect how much this is like the work their team was doing with The Boston Project** - how we do not abandon the broken parts of the city or the damaged people we meet. Rather, we recognize that God is in the business of making all things new again. Jesus said, “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”

*We still have openings for church youth groups to join our Summer Missions Program during the weeks of June 19-24, June 26-July 1, or July 31-August 5. Contact Keith Riddle.*

### Thanks to Trinitarian Congregational Church

The children’s Sunday School collected a special offering to help our Boston neighbors with heating bills. One boy gave his entire saved allowance, over \$100. He said to his mom, “People are really cold, and I think God wants me to do this.”



### "Acts 2" Yard Sale

**"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." ~ Acts 2:44-45**

In the spirit of Acts 2, The Boston Project is holding a GIANT yard sale Memorial Day weekend (May 27-28) to support local families through programs and direct aid.

We are now collecting donations of furniture, household items, home decor, toys, jewelry, electronics, good quality clothing, and more!

Drop off items at The Boston Project (or limited pick up for large quantity donations). Volunteers are needed during the yard sale. Contact Paul.



### 10 Summer Jobs Unfunded

Local parents and teenagers have told us that providing summer jobs is one of the most important things we do. **We believe that a job is an open door to invest in at-risk youth.** This year there are fewer resources available to hire local teenagers. Last summer, we employed 25 youth; right now, we can hire only 12.

We are asking churches, small groups, a youth group, or families to consider sponsoring a summer teen job with The Boston Project. Each job is an investment of \$1,300, and **an opportunity to change a young person's life.**

Contact Paul to donate or note in a check memo “summer teen job.” *Thank You!*



Photo by [www.deborahzoephoto.com](http://www.deborahzoephoto.com)

### Congrats Liz & Ben!

On April 9th, we were thrilled to celebrate the marriage of staff members Liz (Boyd) and Ben Cressy!

Liz serves as the Executive Assistant, keeping the ministry humming and working on community development initiatives. Ben is our Greenspace Coordinator, spearheading efforts on community gardens, parks, and open spaces.

**You can send congrats to:** Ben & Liz Cressy, 12 Elmhurst Street, Dorchester, MA 02124.

They are also raising support together with a goal of \$20,000 for 2011. If you would like to give a special gift on their behalf or begin regular support, see the enclosed reply card.

### Please PRAY for these needs of The Boston Project

**PRAISE GOD** for our new scripture theme based on Jesus’ words “Follow Me,” God’s wisdom in decision making, provision of a car for Liz & Ben, the start of a parent group, the gift of a laptop to replace a stolen computer, partnerships with law enforcement, our new tween girls Bible study, and for our supporters.

**HEALING FROM TRAGEDY:** A week after President Obama visited our neighborhood, a young person tragically lost his life on a nearby street. The loss is painful for the family and neighbors. Pray for God’s comfort, and a renewed hope and commitment in working with our most at-risk youth.

**DEVELOPING NEIGHBOR-LEADERS:** Pray for us as we work with 20-30 neighbors of various ages in 2011 to step into leadership roles here within our community, the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle.

**SUMMER PREPARATIONS.** We are in the midst of hiring summer staff and a new Missions Trip Director, writing Bible curriculum, and preparing for all that God wants to do this summer. Pray for daily focus.

**GENERAL FUND.** We rely in faith upon God to provide for our daily needs. Praise God for the current financial supporters of our missionary staff. Pray for additional gifts needed for our *General Fund*.

Please Pray



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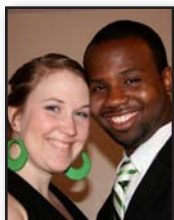
# The Boston Project Staff Team

**Spring has arrived - Boston style!** This means we already have seen 60 degree weather, are waging war with seasonal allergies, and have had some “winter mix” (aka slush & cold) too. Ah....New England, we smile fondly at you.

God has been on the move in people’s lives. You will see below a theme about the “beauty” of God’s work this spring. **We appreciate your prayers and support as we prepare for our summer ministry.**



**The Malkemes Family** - Executive Director & Curriculum Director  
Recently Paul and Megan (10) went to share about The Boston Project at a church. As Cady (8), Grace (5), and Glenna gathered on their bed to pray for them, Cady’s eyes welled up with tears. “What’s wrong Cady?” “Nothing mama. I just get it. It’s beautiful. Our family, the staff, how we live here and our neighbors. **What we are doing is really something beautiful for God.**” Thank you God for this heart-felt reminder amongst our hurting community.



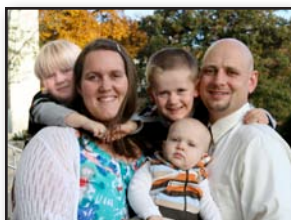
**David & Mindy Rameau** - Neighborhood Youth Ministries  
During our teen Bible study, we notice kids who have not previously taken initiative are starting to step “out of the boat.” (a biblical reference to Peter whom Jesus called to step out of a boat onto water). Youth are choosing to make good decisions over negative peer pressure. God is also calling Mindy and I to step “out of the boat.” My term with Ameri-corps is over in June and Mindy finishes nursing school in August. We ask you to join us in prayer as we look to our Lord Jesus Christ for revelation and guidance about what’s next.



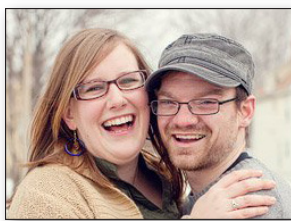
**Dana Chepulis** - Neighborhood Youth Ministries & Communications  
**What a beautiful God we serve!** The Lord has done incredible things in the six months I’ve been in Boston. I have learned the meaning of God’s faithfulness, not just by definition, but through my experience. I have witnessed deep hurt, great resurrection, and passionate love in both my life and others. I have seen the face of Jesus in the homeless, the wandering, the little children, and the brokenhearted. I am slowly learning what it is to die to myself and live as Christ.



**Nyeshia Smith** - Neighborhood Youth Ministries  
Several weeks ago one our Executive Director’s daughters, Megan, left a note on my desk requesting to start a Bible study for tween girls. As each of the girls arrived they were met with warm greetings, good conversation, music, and began by designing personal journals to write their own reflections and questions throughout our meetings. They then came up with the name *Pretty Girl Tween Bible study*. **I look forward to what these wonderful girls will soon discover about how beautiful they truly are in Christ!**



**The Riddle Family** - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality  
This has been a season of contrasts for our family. It has been full of rest, with two full months with little activity and lots of family time; yet we then whizzed through some of the busiest times we can recently remember. So how are we doing? In short, we really identify with the verse in 2 Cor. 4:7-8 - we may be “hard pressed” and definitely “perplexed,” but we do not feel “crushed” or “in despair.” Instead, we are feeling patient, expectant, and even joyful.

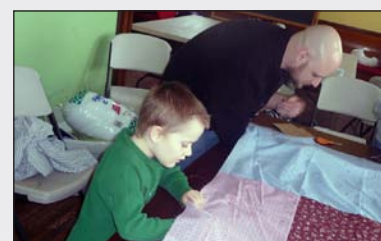


**Liz & Ben Cressy** - Executive Assistant and Green Space Coordinator  
We are so excited to share with you that on April 9, we were able to celebrate in the covenant of marriage. We were wed at First Baptist of Hampton Falls, NH, where Ben grew up. Dan, one of Ben’s former pastors, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the guidelines God gives for marriage. We were reminded that our lives together ultimately serve as a witness to the world around us of who the Lord is and what He does.



## Recent Photos

*More from the life of our staff*



## Financial Update for the General Fund

**Raised to date:**  
**\$4,988**

**Need to date:**  
**\$15,000**

**We invite you to give a special gift or be a regular donor to The Boston Project.** Will you consider investing \$25, \$50, or \$100 in 2011 towards God’s work in Boston?

**11% Thanks!**

**(We have a pressing financial need here.)**

**Goal for 2011: \$45,000**

- (top-to-bottom) 1. Staff and the Malkemes’ girls enjoying a dance at Liz and Ben’s wedding. 2. David and Nye playing games with youth. 3. Dana teaching kids about substance abuse. 4. Keith and son Joseph (5) working on a homemade sleeping bag for the homeless. 5. Liz and Ben enjoying their special day!*