

growing Young Leaders

One Girl's Story of Growing Up with The Boston Project

Shaulita through the Years

"If there wasn't Boston Project, where would she go and where would she be?" reflects Suzanne, her mom. **"This has been the platform for her to open up and show what she is all about."**

15-year old Shaulita is a change-maker. Born in the small West Indian island of Dominica, she moved to Dorchester with her family in 2005. Now in the 10th grade and proud of getting all A's and one B last year, Shaulita organizes a girls group at her public school to come together as a Christian club she calls "Sisters for Change."

"I didn't even know that you could have a Christian club at school," said Shaulita until hearing about a staff member's experience at Real Life Bible study last year. "I didn't know how to do it, but I saw how to do it by helping Dana and Nyesha at *Pretty Tween Girls*."

After setting up the classroom with tables arranged in a big square, eighteen girls arrived recently at *Sisters for Change*. Shaulita lead a short discussion on what Jesus says about forgiveness, and then asked the girls to write a letter to someone they wanted to forgive. There were tears and healing that occurred as the young ladies read their letters out loud about forgiving parents for the impact of their incarceration or drug use, or forgiving themselves for past decisions.

Shaulita is a great example of why we invest so much in youth development. **We believe all youth have the potential to be great leaders.** Her first connection with The Boston Project was when she showed up at age 9 in our backyard for Bible Club. Next she came to the Homework Center, and a few years later she moved into leadership roles within our summer park programs, tween Bible study, and teen café.



Shaulita has been part of our "Real Life" Bible Study.

When asked what helped her grow as a leader, Shaulita quickly responded, "learning more about God." What a great reminder that God is the source of our growth! We also have an important role in supporting parents and families and partnering with schools, churches, and youth organizations who also invest in our neighborhood young people. **We can't do it alone...**

(continued on next page)



2006

Shaulita moved onto Elmhurst Street, across the street from The Boston Project. (pictured far right)



2007-08

She became a junior staff, helping lead BP's summer programs for kids. (pictured far left)



2009-10

Shaulita served as a peer leader with the "Pretty Tween Girls" Bible study. (back row, second from left)



2011

Shaulita in her 3rd year of Park Patrol, our summer jobs program focused on greenspace and parks. (right)



This Month

Shaulita, Paul, and the Lenny Zakim Fund were on WBZ Radio to share about our faith in action.

You can download the full audio of Shaulita and Paul on WBZ Radio at our website, www.tbpm.org.

growing Young leaders (continued from front page)

Shaulita is an emerging and gifted poet. Suzanne, her mom, remembers when she was drawn in and shy. Not anymore! This excerpt is from a longer poem written by Shaulita highlighting her call to be different:

So many years I have wasted of my life trying to wear what others have
 So I can be considered part of the in-crowd
 But I thank God that I'm mature in so many different ways
 Learning to think and act for myself
 And this poem isn't to offend no body
 But this pattern is repeated of 1111 2 1111 3 1111 5
 Everyone wants to be a copier
 But many times ignorant of what they're falling into.

As much as we are focused on empowering our youth to discover and fulfill their God-given purpose, young people empower us. This clear reminder came as we ended our short interview and Shaulita asked with excitement if she could pray for The Boston Project right now. Her prayer was full of God's blessing.

Shaulita is a beautiful example of God's work through this ministry. **It definitely leaves us wondering who the next 9-year old is in our midst already blooming into a neighborhood change-maker.**

- Story by Dana Chepulis and Paul Malkemes



in their own words...

...with Shaulita

What do you appreciate most about BP?

"I really like the staff and their support. They help us so much. I like that BP is right here in the neighborhood, and that they help us connect with other programs."

What would you change in our world?

"Hate and fear. Once you have hate your whole world is messed up and fear because it holds us back a lot."

What do you think God has gifted you to do?

"I think God has made me to be a leader. I also love writing and taking pictures."



...with Suzanne, Shaulita's Mom

What is your hope for The Boston Project?

"That it will continue, that new people will be coming in all the time, and that it will expand into other areas. BP can be a turning point for many youth."

growing old leaders, too

In mid-October, two of our seasoned ministry families, the Malkemes' and Riddles', were able to attend a national conference of the *Christian Community Development Association* (CCDA) in Indianapolis. CCDA is a network of people and ministries that share values similar to The Boston Project. Here's a glimpse of what the conference meant to each of them in their own words:



glenna



paul

sarah



keith

How were you encouraged by your time at the CCDA Conference?

It was encouraging, even healing, to hear stories of founders and veterans in the type of incarnational 24/7 ministries like ours. Successes and trials go hand and hand, but joy comes through God's faithfulness to us, ours to Him and to our neighbors.

I was excited to see that much of our work here in Boston is in line with what is being taught as national best practices by workshop presenters. It's always a boost to see that there are Boston Project-like organizations all across our country.

I enjoyed the time away from active ministry duties to re-connect with Paul and Glenna, and the abundance of solo time with Keith. I was also encouraged by other moms who raise families while involved in urban ministry, and live to tell the tale.

I was humbled to realize that after 9+ years serving in the same neighborhood ministry, we were more experienced than many at the conference. At the same time, it was great to learn from more seasoned workers to see how we can grow.

What is one specific thing that you learned or you felt God speaking to you?

I need to believe that "self-care" is important - may I even say a spiritual discipline? It is critical that we invest in nurturing our minds, bodies, and souls with God and know that it is not selfish to set aside time to do so.

New England has a very under-developed CCDA network. I'm wondering whether God may want to use us regionally to help nurture this important movement of God's people.

God deepened my appreciation for the rich community we have at BP. Many mission workers leave a ministry or get burnt out in under 5 years. God has blessed us with a supportive BP family that helps us flourish in ministry and grow our family.

God continued to speak into our family's journey, and confirmed our heart for both serving in this type of ministry and equipping the broader Body of Christ to do the same.



Mayonne jumped right into the launch of our 2011-2012 Homework Center.

Welcome, Mayonne!

We welcome our newest staff member, Mayonne Thomas (“May” for short). She started as a new AmeriCorps member in October. Praise God for her faithful spirit! Mayonne was living in Florida with family when - within the course of 9 days - she found out about the position, applied, interviewed, accepted, and arrived for training in Boston! **Now that’s what we call trusting in God.** (Can I get an Amen!?)

Mayonne is originally from Guyana, South America. After moving to the states with her family in 2003, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Plattsburg. She then went to seminary at Columbia International University and received a M.A.

Mayonne is a *Youth Outreach Worker* at The Boston Project, focusing on the elementary-aged students with oversight of the Homework Center. Mayonne has traveled to 11 countries on four different continents, and has a desire to serve and connect with young people. She fits right in here at The Boston Project and we are so excited to see how God will use her in our neighborhood!

Financial Update

We are excited about all that God is doing in and through The Boston Project. We hope you are, too!

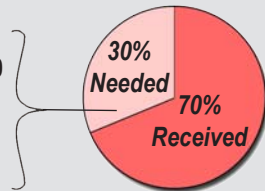
Most people reading this newsletter have partnered with The Boston Project in some way and at some time whether through prayer, encouragement, financial giving or volunteering. **Thank You immensely!**

As we approach the end of 2011, we wanted to let you know about our remaining financial needs both for our missionary staff and the General Fund (which makes our programs and outreach possible).

Needed by December 31, 2011

- General Fund - \$28,569
- Paul & Glenna Malkemes - \$7,760
- Keith & Sarah Riddle - \$10,325
- Ben & Liz Cressy - \$9,111
- Dana Chepulis - \$1,940

2011 Donations to Date



We understand that for many organizations, ourselves included, that 40% of our charitable gifts are received between October-December. **We ask you that you prayerfully consider a special gift to help us finish 2011 and begin 2012 strong!**

Homework Center, up and running...



Help us have a great year!

Our free, drop-in Homework Center meets a critical need for youth by providing a safe, quiet place where they can complete homework and build study skills. A great way to get involved is to **donate a week of Homework Center snacks with your church, small group, or workplace.** Contact Dana (dana@tbpm.org) if you would like to donate snacks like:

- Fresh fruits and veggies
- Granola bars & popcorn
- Cheese & crackers
- Pretzels & hot chocolate
- Gift cards to Shaws or Stop & Shop
- Cookies

Please PRAY for these needs of The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for rest for our staff, for the arrival of Mayonne, growth in our neighborhood youth council and parents group, for the CCDA conference, a growing spiritual hunger in our youth, and for those who have been praying and sacrificially giving to help us meet our year-end financial needs.

BEING THANKFUL FOR MY COMMUNITY DAY. Ask God to bring many neighbors and church volunteers together for this day of celebration and community beautification on November 5th.

REAL LIFE ALPHA. Pray for the planning and launch of a 10-week youth Alpha course this winter. Alpha is a practical exploration of the Christian faith for young believers and non-Christians.

GOD’S DIRECTION FOR STAFF. Your prayers are being answered! God is providing life direction for our staff little-by-little. Pray for those staff who are in the midst of 40 days of prayer and fasting.

CAPACITY BUILDING. We thank God for the opportunity to work with Ellen Bass and the Black Ministerial Alliance to re-examine our mission and the outcomes of our work. Pray for our meetings this fall designed to help strengthen our organization.

Please Pray



TheBostonProject
ministries

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The Boston Project Staff Team

Autumn has ushered in a bit of change for us. Different than most falls, we have reduced the number of service days and outreach events we traditionally host. The purpose of this shift was to create more space for staff to rest and listen to God. Many of you have been praying for us. *Thank you!* God is gradually revealing Himself and His plans to our staff families.

Thank you for being with us on this journey. We believe that even as we are doing less this fall as a ministry team, God is being exalted all the time.



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director
Little did we know how much the switch to homeschool would be healing for our family. Our stress has dropped significantly. Glenna is a gifted teacher and the girls love the new experience. We also made it to the national CCDA conference in Indianapolis! *Thank you to all who gave so we could attend.* What a refreshing and valuable time. Now at home, a significant part of Paul's time is in working to build neighbor-leaders amongst parents, youth, and businesses.



NEW STAFF! Mayonne Thomas - Youth Outreach Worker
The past 9 years have seen a lot of changes and transitions, yet God has been faithful through it all. On the eve of my graduation from seminary, I had no idea where I was going next. It turns out The Boston Project was where God had prepared a place for me, so here I am in this city about to embark on this adventure in my life. I will be focusing on the children and youth, including Homework Center, Teen Cafe's, and more. I am so grateful to God for all that He has done and will continue to do both in my life and this, His ministry.



Liz & Ben Cressy - Executive Assistant & Community Development
This fall, we are reminded of our need for restoration – from our physical environment, to the hurt we see in neighbors' lives, to our own challenges of 'city life'. After spending time outdoors in Vermont and California – environments that are epic, magnificent, quiet and restored – we remember that in spite of the unstable nature of our life in Dorchester, God is bigger, more powerful and more gracious than we can fully comprehend.



Dana Chepulis - Youth Outreach Worker & Greenspace
For the past few weeks, I have been involved in a women's Bible study focused on the story of Jonah through a book by Priscilla Shirer. I recognize that my life all too often mirrors his. I have a way of letting God know what I want and sometimes get frustrated when He does things His way, but God is good at interruptions. A little hiccup in my life can go a long way by taking my focus off my selfish desires and steering my heart into God's direction. God only takes my ashes and makes them into beauty for His kingdom.



The Riddle Family - Service-Learning Director & Hospitality
In October, our family sent out a special update about an \$8,000 deficit in our family's support-raising goal. Praise God, in the past four weeks, over \$6,500 has been given and we are back on track! We are overwhelmed and humbled to receive such an outpouring of support, prayer, calls, emails, and letters. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We have also seen God provide in unusual ways, like the unexpected start of Sarah's baking business, "Sparrow Baking."



Shaulita at the site of the new Community Garden



Recent Photos

More from the life of our staff



(top-to-bottom) 1. The Malkemes and Riddles dining out during the CCDA Conference.
2. Dana and Liz hike with several local youth.
3. Paul unexpectedly won an award for "Excellence in Public Service" with Bob Francis.
4. Glenna celebrates her 40th birthday!
5. Youth play pool at "The Spot" Teen Cafe.