

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.

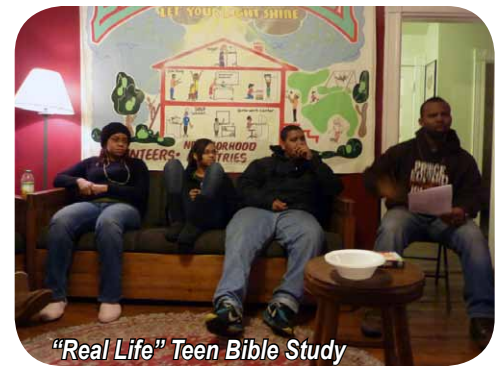
(Continued on backside)

* 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.



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 Nyeshia. 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

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 Malkemes Family Update

~ by Glenna

Contact us anytime:
617.265.1630 • paul@tbpm.org
g.malkemes@comcast.net



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.

On a recent Sunday, our family was scheduled to share about The Boston Project with Rock Village Church in southern MA. Cady, Grace and myself stayed at home due to allergy sickness, but Meg went with Paul for moral support and the free Dunkin’ Donuts breakfast along the way! That morning Cady, Grace and I gathered on our bed, so we could pray for Megan and Paul. Before prayer, Cady asked why they went to visit this church. I shared again how our family and The Boston Project staff live in our neighborhood to make a difference for God. I gave examples like how we spend time getting to know and care for our neighbors, how we organize fun activities at the park, build community gardens together, teach the Bible, and more. Cady’s eyes welled up with tears.

“Mommy, stop. Please stop. I’m going to cry.” Cady put one hand on her heart and fluttered the other one back and forth in front of her eyes.

“Cady, what’s wrong, why are you upset, why are you crying?” I couldn’t imagine what was stirring all this emotion so suddenly.

“Nothing, mama. I just get it. It’s beautiful; I never thought about it this way before. Our family, the staff, how we live here and our neighbors. **What we are doing is really something beautiful for God.**” Tears rolled down her cheeks, and mine too. Then Grace got emotional too. Cady continued with her 8 year-old-epiphany.

“And if Papa and Megan share at this church what we and our neighbors do, then maybe they will want to see if they can do the same things with their neighbors too. We can all live something beautiful for God.” My word, I wasn’t expecting that one.

Thank you God, for the reminder that amongst our fallen world and our hurting community, we are still a neighborhood making something beautiful for you.

Pray with us!

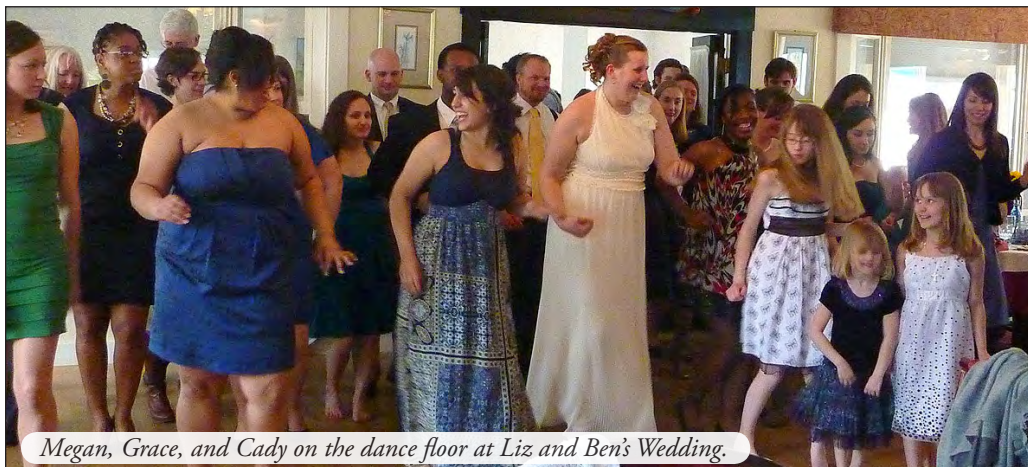
Prepaing for Homeschooling. We are excited to have made the decision to homeschool Megan, Cady, and Grace beginning in September. Pray for us as we attend a homeschool conference in late April to prepare for this new adventure.

Sabbath Season. Pray that we will continue to rest, listen to God, and connect as a family.

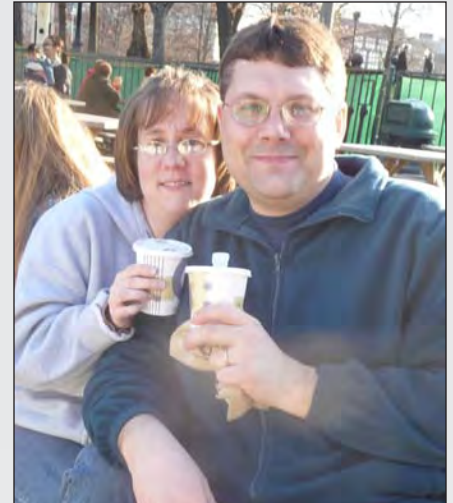
Have a wonderful Resurrection season celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ.

2011 Missionary Support = \$58,000

31% Raised to Date. Thanks!

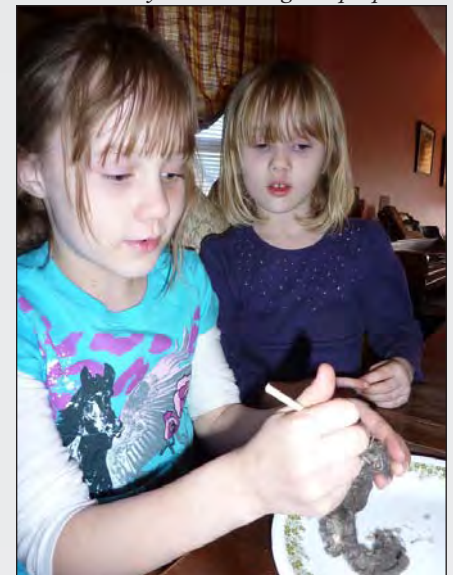


Megan, Grace, and Cady on the dance floor at Liz and Ben’s Wedding.



Cup of cocoa, Frog Pond, Boston Common

▼ Cady and Grace love science this year. Here they are dissecting owl poop.



Megan’s love for chocolate resulted in a school report on the Baker Chocolate Factory –the first in the country and in Dorchester.

