

Open my eyes so that I can see the wonderful truths in your law.

- Psalm 119:18



This summer, The Boston Project operated our 15th *Summer Missions Program*. Over 200 youth from around the country came to join with us in caring for people. One consistent theme of this summer was how God opened youth's eyes to the realities of injustice in our city and world – in the words of one 15-year-old girl, “an amazing, mind-changing experience filled with love and service.” As teenagers served in some unfamiliar places, we heard again and again, “I never knew this was happening.” Below is a story from one of our Summer Staff, Young Park, about how God opened the eyes of a team of teenagers as they served...

by Young Park, 2010 Summer Staff



I remember being so discouraged when it started to pour rain just as we arrived at the Boston Common. Our youth volunteers were about to begin the final activity of their summer mission trip called “Spontaneous Service.” After a week of planned projects, we send out small teams around the Boston Common to *serve spontaneously* as the Holy Spirit leads them.

I was really looking forward to watching my youth step out of their comfort zones, but the rain was now pouring down and drenching my hopes. In order to avoid the storm, we decided to take shelter under a McDonald's awning. There were a lot of other people standing with us so I figured “Why not take advantage of this moment?” **I encouraged the youth to look and see if there were any needs around us.**

Almost immediately the teens noticed a man sitting alone against the wall. The students began to talk with him and asked if he wanted anything to eat or drink. In very broken English, he said that he was very hungry. So they bought him something to eat.

However, he wasn't as interested in the food they bought him. He kept pleading “please help...please help...please help...please don't leave me...” None of us expected his cry. We didn't know what to do except to stay with him as long as we could and pray for him.

While we gathered around praying for him, he wouldn't stop crying. We were so heart-broken; we felt so helpless. There was nothing we could do at that point except pray. Finally, we said our goodbyes with heavy and aching hearts. We knew that we were able to be with him in that hour - but where would he be tomorrow or the next day?

Later as we reflected on what happened, **we realized that God used this moment to open our eyes.** Had it not rained, we probably would not have run into this man. Had we not run into him, these teenagers would not have witnessed the broken world that we live in. It was a moment of clarity - all of the scriptures and issues of injustice we discussed earlier in the week - homelessness, hunger, loving the alien in your land – became more than just intellectual thoughts. They became real to us. *(continued on page 2)*

creative justice



Praying over the needs of a stranger



Repairing 25+ bikes for neighborhood kids



Sorting tons of fresh produce for the hungry



Youth Jobs & Greenspace Initiatives

creative justice

When face-to-face with complex issues of injustice, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, powerless, and frustrated. But God's Word says in Psalm 37:5-6:

"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

At The Boston Project, we believe there are so many ways to work for justice - our God is a creative God!



Sorting toys for children in need



Family Fun Night



Home Repair Ministry



The Spot: Anti-Violence Teen Cafe



Partnering with local ministries

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Can you help us feed 80 families this Thanksgiving? Consider taking a "food offering" one Sunday!

Donations Needed:

- Frozen Turkeys
- Mashed Potato Mix
- Canned Veggies
- Breads & Rolls
- 64 oz. Fruit Juices
- \$250 to buy baskets and other goodies (you can donate online)
- More Turkeys
- Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Desserts
- Coffee & Tea

Donations must be dropped off at 15 Elmhurst Street by Friday, Nov. 19th



(Open My Eyes, continued from page 1)

Currently, I (Young) am a 3rd year college student. Even for me, this encounter has made a huge difference in the way I live out my faith. I recognize Jesus spent much of his time with the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized. Jesus embraced and loved them. **I really need to reconsider my lifestyle and whether Jesus' life is being expressed through me?**

This year I am choosing to live with five non-believers so that I might be more available to share Jesus with them. At The Boston Project I learned the importance of **incarnational ministry** – living in proximity to the people that I love and hope to serve. I want to be available to these guys. Also, God by his sovereign grace structured my semester so that I don't have any classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This allows me to continue serving with Starlight Ministries to the homeless. As a matter of fact, I went out to the Common today and had some great spontaneous conversations with people! ☔

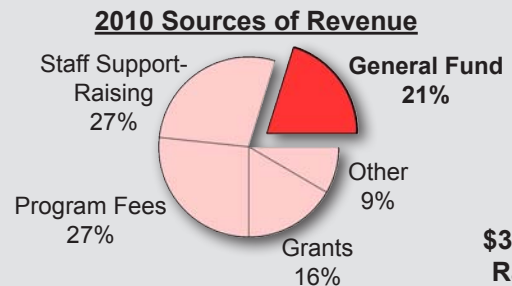
General Fund Update: Half-Full! (yes, we're optimists)

2010 General Fund Need: \$72,000

We have much to be thankful for this year. In recent months, a number of people have made special gifts towards the General Fund, and several more have committed to giving \$25, \$50, or even \$100 monthly.

Why is it so important? The General Fund covers many of the costs related to running a **Neighborhood Ministry House**. Additionally, some staff raise support for their salaries, grants pay for specific programs, and program fees make a dent in staff time and service supplies. However, the General Fund provides funding for youth programs and some key operational costs.

Don't let the name fool you - **even though it's General, it's also Essential** - we can not operate without the financial support of people like you who believe in our ministry. That's why **we would like to ask you to consider making a special year-end gift to our General Fund** - we're optimistic you will. :)



\$36,906 Raised to-date

Would you consider a special year-end gift to our General Fund?

Here I Raise My Ebenezer

Emily Oldham served with The Boston Project beginning in the summer of 2008, and recently returned to her hometown of Nashville, TN. While her main role was mobilizing volunteers, Emily's passion for our neighborhood stretched wide as she loved others through Homework Center, teen Bible Study, Starlight Ministries to the Homeless, and simple daily acts of kindness to neighbors. In her words, "y'all are crazy for thinking I can summarize 2.5 years in 3 paragraphs," but as in everything she does, she found a way.

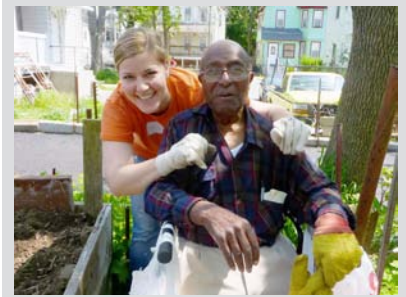
Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." -1 Samuel 7:12

GOD IS PATIENT. My first summer at The Boston Project as a staff counselor, I hosted youth groups on urban missions trips. One day, I was leading a painting site at a local church. I was confident we would finish that afternoon. But as we started, the paint began bubbling. I encouraged the team to paint over the bubbles; maybe it just needed a second coat? Hours later, I had an unpainted, bubbly ceiling and a discouraged team – a staff counselor's nightmare. After several more exhausting days of trial and error, we finally discovered a solution. I couldn't wait to talk about it with my team since many of them had remained committed to this grueling project. As we completed the project, we had a great discussion about the Lord's patience with us. We felt accomplished and humbled at the same time – knowing that God is in the process of repairing the broken parts of our hearts just as we patiently repaired this broken ceiling.

GOD IS JUST. One afternoon at Homework Center, I was helping a girl with her math assignment. Sitting on the table in front of her were worksheets due the next day. She was frustrated because they lacked any explanation of how to complete the problems. I asked where her math book was, and she told me that her grade didn't have any math books. That angered me - my eyes were being opened to the lack of resources that face some schools in our nation. I couldn't believe how unjust it felt. **Working at The Boston Project has ignited a passion in me to help end educational injustice.** I am currently seeking employment in the metro Nashville public school system.

GOD IS LOVE. One of my favorite memories about Boston Project was how often we prayed together. It seems like we were always praying! My personal favorite was morning prayer in the living room. Many tears were shed – both tears of joy and tears of sadness; I remember being quite vulnerable! I believed that God was going to show up – we all did. Whether we were praying for youth by name, lifting up church partners, or praying in advance for our summer staff; it was such a relief to surrender all of it to God before we started the day.

The title of my reflection uses the uncommon word "Ebenezer," which is a Hebrew word meaning "a stone of help." In the Old Testament, an ebnazer stone was a reminder of God's faithfulness to the Israelites. Today, we sing "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" which includes the line "Here I raise my Ebenezer." I used to wonder if I would ever experience the true depth of that word. I can say today, God has proven himself faithful. He has given me more than a memory of my time in Boston; He has given me an Ebenezer. I look forward to the many times ahead when I will reflect on my time at The Boston Project and say, **"thus far has the Lord helped (me)."**



Please PRAY for these needs of The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for our new Americorps staff member Dana, growing neighborhood leadership, a better-than-expected yard sale, a dozen youth coming to Bible study, the increase of new students attending Homework Center, a restful September, and for your prayers and financial support!

SPIRITUAL HUNGER. Some of our youth face physical danger regularly. However, many more of our youth are lost spiritually. Pray that God will give them a hunger to discover and know Him.

PHYSICAL HUNGER. Ask God to supply an abundance of food for our Thanksgiving Baskets and more!

FAMILY MINISTRY. Ask God for direction as we explore how to best support families in our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY HOUSES. Pray for our Board as they work on guidelines for ministry houses.

YEAR END FUNDING. Our General Fund is half-full! **Pray for God's generous provision.** The ministry operates day-by-day waiting upon Him for our daily bread. Ask God to provide the remaining \$35,000 needed in 2010 to cover our operational expenses.



Mailing Address:
The Boston Project Ministries
670 Washington Street
Dorchester, MA 02124

Phone: (617) 929-0925
Fax: (617) 929-0927

Website: www.tbpm.org
Email: info@tbpm.org

The Malkemes Family Update



*In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.* Psalms 5:3

Our life has been pretty topsy-turvy lately. Between planning for an untraditional Sabbath next year (more below) and the upsetting news that the Boston Public School superintendent plans to close our daughter's school (Cady and Grace), our sense of rhythm both at home and at work have been jolted.

Why does God allow this? We don't always understand why the earthquakes come, but they do. In the past weeks, we have experienced sadness, anger, exhaustion, and uncertainty about what the future holds. Amongst the changing landscape, we lay our requests before God and wait upon Him in expectation.

A Sabbath. We have been exploring the idea of a non-traditional Sabbath (rest) in 2011 as we enter our 15th year of ministry with The Boston Project. We don't have the finances for a traditional Sabbath (paid leave from work), but we do believe God is leading us to pause from some day-to-day responsibilities to rest and reconnect as husband and wife, invest more intentionally in the spiritual and moral development of our daughters, reflect on the gifts and passions God has placed within us, and to start writing The Boston Project story for a future book. Pray for our staff and church as we work together to figure out how to best enter this unique season.

Fighting for Our School. Much to our surprise, the Lee Academy Pilot School has been recommended for closure due to Boston's school budget issues. As you may imagine, we along with many parents and elected officials are fighting the closure. The process has opened our eyes to many facets of educational injustice. Pray for the families impacted by this decision, many with young or special needs children.

Thank you for your faithful support. We are so keenly aware that we are not able to do any of this in our own strength, but only in what God provides. *Your prayers change things here in Boston!* Keep on praying.

With love, Paul & Glenna

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

85% Raised to Date. Thanks!

Goal for 2010: \$48,000

Fall Harvest: Megan and friend Symone clean a local park; Cady harvesting potatoes at her school's garden; Glenna and Grace picking apples in New Hampshire.



Pray with us

- **A Sabbath.** Pray with us about how to best prepare for 2011; for God to raise the support people needed in this season.
- **The Lee Academy.** Pray for families and teachers as we aggressively fight this closure decision during the next 2 weeks.
- **Thank God for Growth.** We have had numerical growth in our programs, and are thankful for the recent addition of Dana Chepulis to our staff team.

In October, we received the *2010 Jack Good Community Service* alumni award from Gordon College. It was a real joy to have the award presented by fellow Boston Project co-founders and Board members Cami and Stefan Foerster.

