

The Gift of Shalom



On a chilly fall morning, Mari, Paulea, and I (Glenna) sat in a church basement for a training on post-traumatic healing. Although our neighborhood is diverse, many of our families have one common denominator: **we are all living with trauma.**

Roxbury Presbyterian Church and the Cory Johnson Center for Trauma Healing hosted their inaugural training: *"Abide & Persevere: The Spiritual Essence of Post-Traumatic Healing."* We joined 30 other guests in what quickly, and almost miraculously, became a safe space for us.

This was more than a training, it was a sacred moment; a time to listen, learn, share, and heal ourselves. I sat there, internally stunned, realizing how many of the boxes I could personally check-off related to experienced trauma. Moments and events came flashing back like a photographic timeline-- the murder of a high-school friend by her boyfriend, yelling at my (then) preschool aged children to "Get away from the window!" as their father went outside to diffuse an altercation involving a weapon, our home being broken into, crying with neighbors as they experienced yet another loss of life within their famil(ies). The images blinked on and on in my head like a slideshow. Somehow though, as the day continued - in the rawness and learning - I experienced peace as I listened and processed.

During a break Mari leaned over and said, *"I love their use of the word 'abide.' For me, abide has always had a negative connotation to it. You know, 'Abide by the rule of law.' But this - Abide - is different; it means so much more, especially with the work we do."*

The trainers referenced the word "Abide" as central to both their Christian faith, and approach to caring for hurting neighbors. Their use of the word is anchored in the abiding nature of Jesus, who walks with us continually (John 15:9). Similarly, we can "abide" with neighbors, walking with them through their healing process; a process which can take decades. Today we give and receive shalom through our friendships, peace walks, pastoral care for neighbors, listening, and serving as a resource center. **The holiday season can be a challenging time for people with trauma.** Even as we write this, we are quietly praying for you, ourselves, and our neighbors.

God's shalom represents what God has always desired since the beginning of time. Wholeness. Hope. Peace. Salvation. Right Relationships. It is the biblical story of God abiding with us; redeeming and restoring humanity through his son Jesus Christ (Col 1:19-20). **This gives us hope! We know that we can experience God's shalom and healing today even as we live with trauma.**

(Mari, Glenna, Dana, and Paulea at the workshop)



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In 2018, The Boston Project Ministries is exploring how can we better “abide” with our neighbors in the process of post-traumatic healing. Could our Neighborhood Ministry House be used as a safe place for a healing program like the one at Roxbury Presbyterian Church? Can more neighbors be trained as trauma responders? Can we use the arts to help young people process, express, and begin their healing journey?

We invite you to make a financial gift to The Boston Project Ministries to join us and our neighbors in this journey. **We need your partnership.** Your gift will help change a person's life. As we celebrate this Christmas season, we pray you too, will experience the abiding presence and healing found in Jesus. - Glenna



(Right) Spitting Fire. Recently we used spoken word (poetry) to help teenagers express joy, concern, and hope in their world. (Above) Youth discipleship is part of the spiritual healing process.

Looking Towards 2018

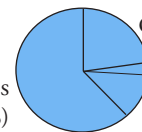


Thank You for your generous financial support this year. We often receive 30% of our annual giving during the month of December.

We want to be transparent and share that as a ministry we are debt-free (*praise God*), but recently we have been operating “paycheck-to-paycheck” due to increased expenses and some friends having to suspend support. Your gift this month would make us smile!

2017-18 REVENUE Projected \$460,000

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES
CHURCHES (62%)



GRANTS (22%)

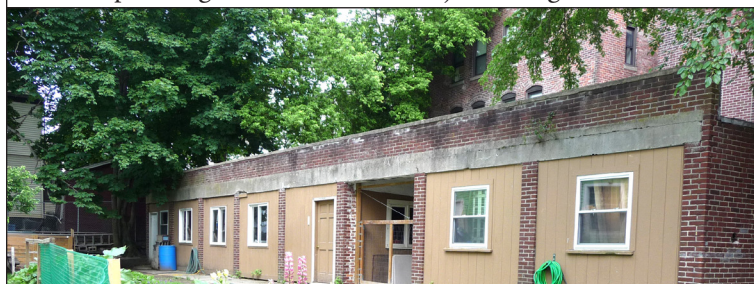
CAPITAL FUNDS (6%)

PROGRAM FEES (10%)

2018 Capital Needs - Considering a Major Gift?

Replace Back Porches on Boston Project House - \$15,000

Waterproofing Roof on Boston Project Garage - \$12,500



What Do You Appreciate Most About Your Community?

Saturday, December 2 marked our 14th annual **Being Thankful for My Community Day**. After cleaning up Elmhurst Park, the Community Garden, and New England Avenue, neighbors of all ages came together over bowls of homemade chili and cornbread. Here are a few things neighbors are thankful for...



“I appreciate that folks care enough about our neighborhood to make it a safe place to live. We care about one another.” - Norine

“I appreciate The Boston Project. It sets a different standard for what a community should be - that we are worth investing in.” - Jason



“I appreciate that kids can get jobs and have a place to hang out and learn about God.”

- Tahnai

Ways You Can Pray For The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for our 15 youth ambassadors, increased attendance at our teen Bible study, a recent award from the City of Boston from Love Your Block, a new furnace for the BP house, and for YOU - our “**Friends of BP**.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EVENT. Pray for our Youth Ambassadors as they plan our first-ever MLK, Jr. reflection and service event for teenagers and neighbors on Saturday, January 13.

NEIGHBORS IMPACTED BY TRAUMA. Ask God to provide peace, comfort, and healing for those traumatized especially during this Christmas season. Pray for direction on our future role in post-traumatic healing.

FINANCIAL NEEDS. Ask for God's favor with recent grant submissions, and for an increase of new partners.

Please Pray



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THE BOSTON PROJECT ENGAGES NEIGHBORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND CONGREGATIONS TO BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES CHARACTERIZED BY GOD'S SHALOM.