

DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS



“Don’t step in the poison peanut butter!” shouted Dayna to our Youth Council team. (Translation: don’t you dare step on the ground or we have to start over.) **“Remember we are all ants on dental floss trying to get to the other side. Use your strength to help one another as a team.”**

This fall, we hosted our first leadership weekend retreat for high school students from our community. We traveled to Maine for two days of team building, leadership lessons, and overcoming personal challenges. One young person scared of heights was near tears as she pushed herself to climb to the top of a 6-foot ladder. Triumphant she said, “Now I feel like I am not hindered by my insecurities.” Another young person who reached the 30-foot platform in the trees temporarily froze. With lots (and lots!) of encouragement she ran and leapt off the platform toward the target saying, “I’m already up here so there is no punking out now.”

Leadership development and teamwork are foundational for creating positive community change. It is easy to repeat the cliché that “the youth are our future,” but it is much more challenging in knowing how to best invest in them. The Boston Project intentionally seeks out teenagers who may be on the fringe or overlooked by others, and invites them to become leaders of change.

This school year, we launched the 3rd cohort of the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle (TNT) Youth Council. In total, 20 students (middle school and high school) are in leadership programs with The Boston Project. **For many teenagers, this is their first formal leadership experience.** For a few, their veteran status comes with added responsibility. Giani, a second year Youth Council member, reflects, “People, especially younger students, look up to you and ask you for advice. It helps you make sure you are always doing the right thing.”

(continued on back)



Our 2014-15 Youth Council start off their year with a leadership retreat, complete with high ropes course, planning time, and personal development.

Sherimon Harris, who grew up in the TNT neighborhood as a teenager, now co-leads our youth leadership programs. She shares, “**We need to start by changing young people’s mentality of their own community.** So many young people say, ‘I can’t wait to move’ even at a young age. Our work is to help remove the blinders of negativity and help them begin to see all the positive things in their neighborhood. Second, we help the youth see what needs to be changed, and third we move to take action. Our goal is that all these things come from their heart rooted in love and care.”

Sherimon’s own experience informs The Boston Project’s approach today. “When I was a youth at The Boston Project, I didn’t listen to staff if I didn’t feel like they knew me. **You can’t just tell me I’m a leader. It takes real relationships with staff to know that you care.** Looking back, I know much of my development was when I was pushed to do things like organize my community for Being Thankful Day or fundraise to build Elmhurst Park.”

Giani admits that one of her biggest fears is public speaking. “This summer, I was really nervous about speaking, but Dayna [staff] kept putting me on the spot because she needed to push me more than I would push myself.”

We draw much of our inspiration for leadership development from the example of Jesus and the Bible. The apostle Paul writes to Timothy, “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12) **Our commitment to developing young leaders is because we believe they are crucial to God’s plan for our neighborhood.**



4 More Mentors Needed

We have a cool opportunity for 1 man and 3 women to mentor teenagers in our leadership development program. Contact Dayna@tbpm.org for info.



TNT Youth Council members take on the high ropes course at the leadership retreat (above). Sherimon and Nakia led the Sisterhood leadership program for 12-14 year old girls this summer (left).

Giani’s Story

Giani is 17-years old and employed by the Youth HUB. In her words:

“My best leadership experience so far was working with the Youth HUB this past summer. We were able to meet a lot of new people in the community as we collected data about youth employment. Since I had been involved in the Youth Hub a little bit longer than my peers, it allowed me to help my teammates understand the material, surveying, and data collection. **Leadership helps us [youth] come out of our shells. It reveals who you are.** The staff made me more accountable and responsible, and responsibility is really important to being employed.”



The Youth HUB is a fiscal-sponsored project of The Boston Project Ministries. It’s mission is to increase and improve youth employment opportunities so that every youth ages 15-24 in Codman Square who wants a job can have a job. Director Rachele Gardner writes “The Youth Hub believes that by providing youth with meaningful employment opportunities and skills along with community support, we can cultivate a pathway towards a purposeful, healthy, and economically sustainable adulthood for every youth in Codman Square.” (info: rachele.youthhub@gmail.com)

Your Investment Counts!

Your generous giving is making an impact in our neighborhood. Giving to the General Fund helps us develop young leaders like Giani, and operate our Youth & Family and Community Development initiatives. **Your partnership is important.**

Typically, 60% of our annual financial need is given by individuals and churches (\$300,000). This year, we have received \$185,000 with \$115,000 remaining to raise. Below is a snapshot of our need:

General Fund - \$81,250 Paul & Glenna Malkemes - \$7,250
Ben & Liz Cressy - \$10,250 Keith & Sarah Riddle - \$16,250

We invite you to make a significant year-end gift today.
www.tbpm.org/donate

Don’t forget...

#GIVINGTUESDAY

You may love the rush of **BLACK FRIDAY** shopping.
 Or maybe you prefer **CYBER MONDAY**’s armchair approach.
 Perhaps you boycott both to make a statement.

Whatever your choice, we hope you will join us and give a donation on **Tuesday, December 3rd** for #GivingTuesday. Thanks!



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



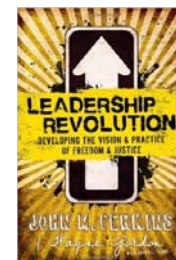
relocation | reconciliation | redistribution | **leadership** | listening | church-based | wholistic | empowerment

The Boston Project is a member of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). Each newsletter we will highlight one of the eight key biblical principles, which anchor our ministry.

Leadership development is essential for sustained change in our community because it is rooted in the biblical desire to equip people to grow in their God-given gifts (Ephesians 4:13).

We believe that every neighbor, volunteer, and staff has potential for leadership in their lives. Leadership is about influence. Even a 7-year-old boy at Homework Center can have influence. Developing servant-leaders like Jesus Christ means nurturing qualities such as a willingness to sacrifice; leading not from a place of power, but humility; identifying with the pain of others; and prioritizing love above all.

This approach to developing leaders is being worked out in every aspect of The Boston Project. During the next two years (2015-2016), one of our major organizational themes is Leadership Development. In the words of John Perkins (CCDA founder), "The mission of servant leaders is not simply to accomplish specific goals, but to share life, leadership, power, and responsibility with others." This winter, our staff is reading **Leadership Revolution: Developing the Vision & Practice of Freedom & Justice** (by John Perkins and Wayne Gordon). We invite you to read along and renew your understanding and/or commitment to raising up the leaders around you.



News from Around the Block



SO THANKFUL FOR OUR CO-FOUNDERS ▲

Cami and Stefan Foerster have been part of the The Boston Project since "Day 1" (in 1995). They helped start the *Summer Missions Program*, connected us with Gordon college students, developed our IT infrastructure, collected hundreds of half-filled laundry detergent bottles for summer staff use, served as Board members, and have prayed, cried, and believed God with us for the growth of this ministry. **We say "Thanks" with much gratitude** as they begin their new adventure in Colorado.

CALVARY CHAPEL IS PART OF OUR FOUNDATION ►

(Literally!!) Nineteen years ago, members now part of Calvary Chapel Raynham embraced a fledgling Boston Project. Today, they are still part of our foundation (*pun intended*). **Special thanks to Greg and Dana who fixed the physical foundation** of our Neighborhood Ministry House. The project was bigger than anticipated, but they gave generously of their time and resources to repair the walls.

REAL LIFE BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

After a 9-month break, we are so excited to restart our teen Bible study - the youth have been asking! We are leading it collaboratively with **Rescued Church Boston** and other local youth leaders as an attempt to more wholistically care for young people and better integrate the church with the community.



THE VISION FOR FLOURISHING

We were thankful to join 2,500 other people who love their neighborhoods, as much as we love ours, at this year's Christian Community Development (CCDA) conference in Raleigh, NC. The theme "Flourish" from Jeremiah 29 was a powerful reminder of God's heart for our communities. We were excited to have Pastor Ricky Grant and LaTonya Brown join us.

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

Ways You Can Pray For The Boston Project

PRAISE GOD for the 20 teenagers in leadership development, the re-launching Real Life (our teen Bible study), for protecting our house when the largest backyard tree recently came crashing down, for church partners who volunteer and pray for us, for a safe summer with less violence, for growth in our neighborhood Bible study, and for faithful financial support from **you - our awesome partners in ministry**.

INCREASING CAPACITY. We have made some internal role changes this fall to better position us for growth. Pray for our new financial need and the process of hiring a new Senior Program Director for 2015.

COLLABORATIONS. Much of our work is done in partnership. Pray for deeper and fruitful connections with local churches as we share the Good News about Jesus together.

MENTORS. Pray for teenagers to be impacted through our leadership, employment, and spiritual programs. Pray for 6-8 mentors to join us January 2015 to invest in our young people.

HOUSE RENOVATIONS. Pray for God's provision of both funding and volunteer labor to help us finish two big projects before summer 2015; bathroom renovation project (\$2,500) and new back porches (\$20,000).

Please Pray



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Updates from...

The Boston Project Staff Team

So, where are we going? What is the vision? As you may sense, leadership development will be a major theme for us during the next two years. In the next 6 months we will complete a 5-year plan for The Boston Project with the help of neighbors and partners. **And in 2015, we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of The Boston Project Ministries** with fun events throughout the year. We hope you will join us at one event. *Thanks for being partners in this great work!*



Dayna Hollinquest - Youth Leadership Coordinator

God has continued to stretch me beyond what I know and it is a very interesting space to be in, but I am eternally grateful for this experience. This year, I am co-leading the neighborhood Youth Council and the Real Life teen Bible study. I am committed to seeing these teenagers grow in every part of their lives. The personal development of the youth is definitely a work in progress and they are excelling. The youth are maturing and becoming more self-sufficient. It is an honor to watch God move in their lives.



The Malkemes Family - Executive Director & Curriculum Director

I (Paul) was recently STUCK. I was so involved in the day-to-day operations and supervising every staff member, that the space I needed to listen to God, serve pastorally, and be visionary was already consumed. With the help of a consultant, we have a renewed commitment to develop leaders already within The Boston Project to serve in new roles with greater responsibility. Glenna and I look forward to this new season of people being released to serve in their gifts.



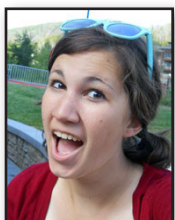
Sherimon Harris - Youth Leadership Coordinator

I get to spend lots of time with our high school and middle school students in leadership development. Though working with youth can be taxing, God has given me a heart to work alongside these awesome young people, and I'm looking forward to a great year. In personal news, James is progressing nicely. Within 3 months, this 4 pound baby is now inching towards 13 pounds! God has truly blessed me with this bundle of joy and all the people who have prayed for us. I can't wait to see what he has in store for me next!



Liz & Ben Cressy - Director of Operations & Community Organizer

Ben and I are thrilled to announce that come next April, we will be welcoming a new member of our family - Baby boy Cressy! It's been a long prayer-filled journey to get here, and we are so excited about what the future holds. A year ago, we were devastated to learn that we had under a 5% chance of getting pregnant. It was a hard pill to swallow. We began to question God. Over and over, we've come back to a place of worship, dependency, and recognition of how truly good Jesus is. We thank God for our miracle baby!



Kristi Ellens - Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

My pastor helped me consider if I have so "normalized" Jesus that I don't trust him to actually answer prayers with the power he has. Thankfully, God reminded me that last year, I had so many fears and doubts about moving to Boston that I made a list. It included things like paying off loans, finding an apartment, and regretting moving to Boston. I just looked back over that list and realized God had given abundantly for each of the 14 concerns. I praise God for his blessings, and cling to him when things still don't make sense.



Keith & Sarah Riddle - Senior Staff

This summer, God brought three wonderful gifts into our lives - three foster teenage boys who live across the street. They come over every day to play with our boys, eat dinner, and sometimes they even allow us into the deep parts of their lives. While these boys are not truly "orphans," God is teaching us so much about his heart for "the orphan" and "fatherless." Pray for our home to be a sanctuary where they can experience family in the absence of their own.

Financial Update

We are so thankful for the 54 individuals and 5 churches who have given to the **General Operating Fund** this year. Your giving directly supports our youth & family programs and community development work in the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle. **We have a large need (\$81,500) to meet in the next 8 weeks, and invite you to help us through your year-end giving.**



October 2014



Neighborhood Ministry House

Thank you, Thomas Menino!



We want to say "Thanks" again to Boston's former Mayor Thomas Menino, who passed away recently. He left his mark on our neighborhood; helping to cut the ribbon at the Elmhurst Park grand opening in 2009.



1) Our "Back-to-School" event brought over 200 people together for games, school supplies, and a gospel concert. Thanks to Rescued Church Boston for co-hosting. 2) Youth at our "Real Life" teen Bible study getting to know one another. 3) Paul and Glenna share at Grace Chapel's Global Awareness Week. **Let us know if you would like us to visit your church, too!**