

Joshua Group



...Providing hope and support to at-risk youth through educational and vocational opportunities...

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THE JOSHUA GROUP

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October, 2008

Dear Friends,

A few recent articles in The Patriot-News dramatically underscore the challenges facing the youth of this neighborhood. Eight young men were recently arrested, ages 15-24, all in this neighborhood, all were carrying guns. Four young men were shot over a weekend, three of them on the streets nearby, one dead.

When I see these articles, our mission statement – seeking to provide hope and support – doesn't quite seem to speak to the reality. Our real mission statement in its' starkest form would be – maybe one or more of those eight wouldn't be carrying a gun or even getting arrested. Maybe one or more of those four wouldn't have been shot. More importantly, maybe someone would still be alive today.

We are here in this neighborhood to reach out – to offer alternatives, real achievable choices and ways of life – survival – for those who do not want to get caught in the quick and easy commerce of the street and the violence that goes along with such a choice. Taking at-risk situations and moving them to at-promise opportunities by implementing our “if only” strategy is our mission. We can't reach them all but with your support we're reaching some...if only.

See how and how many.



Kirk and Bishop McDevitt graduate, Endrias

Sincerely,

Kirk Hallett, Founder and Director

JOSHUA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE FUNDRAISER EVENT

**Thursday, November 20, 2008
8:00–9:00 a.m.**

Greenlee Partners, 230 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Continental breakfast served.

Come hear some of our students' personal stories.
Your contribution to our tuition assistance fund
makes these stories possible.

Joshua 1:9

*...be firm and steadfast.
Do not fear or be dismayed
for the Lord your GOD is with
you wherever you go.*

JCrew



JCrew Staff.



JCrew enjoying a summer barbeque!



Online HACC coursework being completed at the Joshua House Resource Center.



Joshua Group Grads Give Back

What happens after high school graduations? For Eugene and Endrias, it is continued involvement with the Joshua Group. Both have begun their studies at Harrisburg Area Community College with the support of the Josh Group, but they also want to give back.

The generous support of our community has allowed us to offer Eugene and Endrias unique ways to work with current McDevitt High School students. Both will live in the Transition House as resident assistants with the responsibility of tutoring and mentoring several high school students.

Thanks to the renovations at the Transition House (see related article), the two college students will have their own bunk room. They will share other resources of the house with the high schoolers. In addition, Endrias assists Mrs. Miller in tutoring at McDevitt five

afternoons a week. Eugene is a constant role model and leader to other young men who are part of J-Crew, the most intensive support program that the Joshua Group has to offer.

Why are these two young men working so hard? Eugene is quick to credit the opportunities given to him by the Joshua Group. The continuing support is giving the men hope of a college education and its positive consequences. They are both grateful for all the help they have been given and, for now at least, are returning the favors in kind.



Joshua Group program participants and 2008 graduates of Bishop McDevitt High School: Eugene Henry, Tyrell Harris, Darryl Hadley, Endrias Gebreab



Eugene and Endrias outside of 1437 Market.



(left) After school tutoring at the 1437 house. JaQuan and Jay'ree from Cathedral with their tutors Endrias and Travin. Travin is a McDevitt senior who has received support from Joshua Group and is doing a co-op in the afternoons with Joshua Group... tutoring our guys at McDevitt and two young men from Cathedral every Monday through Thursday.

Renovations to the Joshua Group's Transition House

The Prodigal Son Adventures, a non-profit organization with no paid staff, organized and worked with their skilled and unskilled volunteer crew of more than 25 men, women, and young people, to complete work at the Joshua Group's transition house on Saturday, July 19. According to Denise Chase, an organizer of Prodigal Son Adventures, "They're a humble bunch of willing workers who love to bless others in very practical ways."

Prodigal Son Adventures planned the event for about two months. They began with identifying the need, then moved to assessing the work load, sending out email notices to volunteers, and visiting the site with a contractor for measurements and project assessments. They group also ordered and purchased supplies, secured volunteers who are skilled in needed areas, and scheduled unskilled laborers who are willing to get the job done, often learning on the job.

Kirk, Sally, Deb, and Josh of the Joshua Group helped to assess the needs and supplies with a volunteer craftsman, and Joshua Group covered the costs. According to Denise, "We appreciate the work they are doing with the young men and are glad we could be an encouragement to them. It's all about sharing God's love with those around us and helping where we can."

Thanks to Jon Stough of Prodigal Son Adventures, you can see "before" and "after" pictures.



Tyrai and Maurice paint a room at the Joshua House.

JCrew Mentoring

(left) JCrew Junior Mentor, Ra Ra, mentoring Jose.

(below) JCrew mentoring lesson.



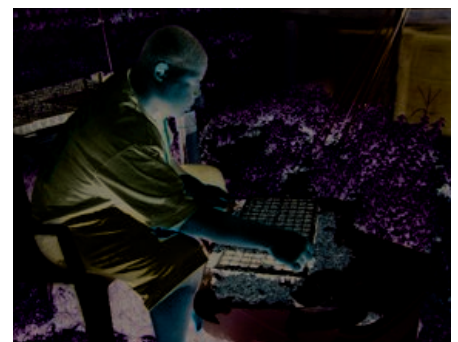
Joshua Farm manager, Kirsten Reinford.



Joshua Group Intern, Josh Gebers and farm employee Maurice Geter.



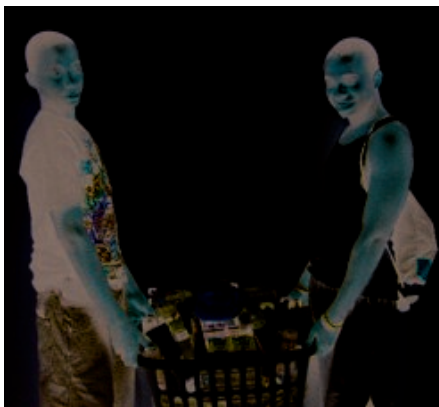
Joe and Maurice at the Joshua Farm.



DeAndre working at the Joshua Farm.



Dylan and friend holding baseball from outing to the Senators, tickets donated by Mayor Reed.



Maurice and Joe hold some of the generous donations of much needed toiletries received from Rite Aid.

GIFTS THAT GIVE

The Alternative Gift Fair, "Gifts that Give" offers Holiday shoppers an alternative to traditional gift giving and is a perfect way to get in the real spirit of the season. A way to find gifts that not only honor special people on your gift list but help others who are not on anyone's gift list.

There are families in our own town that need a hot meal and a safe place to sleep. This is just one example of the needs you help meet by shopping at the Fair. Think of the person on your gift list who would be pleased if you provided food and shelter for a homeless family in their honor. That person will receive a handsome card telling them about your gift.

The Joshua Group is one of the many non-profits to benefit from the Alternate Gift Fair.

JOIN US

Saturday, November 15
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Central Pennsylvania College
Convention Center
Hill and Valley Roads
Summerdale, PA

Enjoy some holiday cheer, live music, refreshments and participate in some good causes.

Sponsored by The Ladies' Half, a Women's Giving Circle. For more information: info@theladieshalf.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Allison Hill Fund	Rite Aid Corporation
Citizens Bank	United Way of the Capital Region
Greater Harrisburg Realtors' Foundation	United Way of the Capital Region YAP (Youth Allocation Panel)
Kunkel Foundation	YWCA of Greater Harrisburg and the South Central Allison Hill Generations Fund
Lowe's	
M & T Bank	
Penn National Gaming Foundation	

Thank you to KPMG Alumni for raising \$10,000 at a June golf outing.

Mail to:

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The Joshua Group is a member agency of the United Way of the Capital Region (giving # 7047) and a registered 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 31-1372530.

I want to support the mission, programs, and services of The Joshua Group:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed

I will pray for The Joshua Group

Please add me to the mailing list

I would like information about volunteering

I would like to request a speaker

I would like information about making an in-kind donation

I know a young person who needs to know about The Joshua Group