

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Harvey J. Reed
Director

Volunteer

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Broken, Bold and Blessed

The Barbara Colvin Story



Rev. Barbara Colvin shared her documentary “Broken, Bold and Blessed” with youth at Circleville. This is a dramatic story of overcoming life’s challenges. She brought to guest speakers with her, Minga Lindsay and Quartez Harris. They both spoke with youth and participated in a Q&A session. Below Quartez Harris shares his experience at CJCF with us.

Recapturing my Volunteer Experience

I am truly honored for the opportunity to recapture and share my remarkable volunteer experience at the Department of Youth Services (DYS). My volunteer experience began as a representative of the “Broken, Bold and Blessed Ministry.” The ministry serves fragmented and broke people. Broken, Bold, and Blessed Ministry seeks to empower and educate disenfranchise people and restore them to a state of wholeness.

During my time at DYS I was impressed by how the youth shared their vision for their lives. I immediately came to the understanding that as a community, we should hold these youth accountable for the vision they have for themselves. We shouldn’t focus exclusively on holding them accountable for what they did wrong.

I was captivated by our two motivational speakers and how they were able to engage the youth. One of them being Reverend Barbara Colvin, founder of the Broken Bold and Blessed Ministry. I firmly believe Reverend Colvin’s documentary touched each youth and instilled in them a sense of hope and redirection. The documentary depicted Reverend Colvin’s life and her personal journey of perseverance. After the youth finished watching her inspiring story I could tell that their spirits were uplifted and empowered.

Minga Lindsay delivered a powerful message about the value of integrity. He shared a story of his personal challenges, setbacks, and discussed how integrity was integral to his success story. He shared with the youth about a time when he was at risk of not graduating from high school. He eventually graduated and went on to attend college. However, he could not enroll into his second year of college due to financial hardships. Nevertheless, he embodied integrity as a cashier at Wal-Mart and was pro-

moted to the job title “Asset Protection Manager”. He mentioned that he arrived on time, never complained and did his job to the best of his ability. I believe his message was critical because often times we associated success based on a mere college degree, but the reality is that not everyone will go to college.

Interestingly, in Minga’s case the position he received typically requires a college degree, but they made exception for him because they saw his integrity.

I closed our engagement by sharing two poems which were about the plight of at risk environments dealing with high crime areas and how they effect youth. After I finished reciting my poems, several youth embraced me to share their poems. There was one particular youth who told me how his mother, grandfather and best friend all died in a month. He shared about how this was a factor in him turning to drugs and becoming incarcerated. In response to his grief he created a short and profound poem:

“Where did the starts begin and this life we attend. Who created this great vision? Death is a blink away. I wonder if I would make it to heaven stair way.”

He shared with me how that poem helped him to cope and make sense of his lost. I came to the conclusion that it is not all about what is wrong with our youth, it is important to try to understand what happened to our youth. Overall my experience was amazing and I plan to volunteer again in the near future.

-Submitted by Quartez Harris Volunteer



Minga Lindsay, Rev. Barbara Colvin and Quartez Harris

Indian River: Volunteers assist youth in handcrafting blankets for local shelter



Selected youth serve weekly to give back to the community. Some youth get the privilege of serving off grounds at True North, with landscaping and assisting with farm animals. Others get to serve while on the Indian River facility by making items such as blankets. The blankets have been given to women’s shelters and to children hospitals.

Adopt-a-Unit

DYS Welcomes our New Partners: Peace Ministry
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

Adopt-a-Unit is growing at The Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. Recently the Peace Ministry group headed by Jamie McCoy has adopted unit Ash. Jamie and his group of volunteers provide the youth with activities that include games, fellowship, and Bible instruction. Unit Manager Jason Percell and the rest of the unit staff have welcomed the volunteers as partners in working with the youth for a more peaceful unit environment. The youth have responded well and as many as 15 out of 20 youth have attended the weekly meetings. They report that the volunteers support them and help them to see that God is on their side and that they can look forward to leaving DYS with a positive focus and direction. Currently, another group is in training to adopt unit Elm, the unit staff is eager to welcome the volunteers.



John Holt, New England Homes, brings *innovative* vocational program to Scioto youth

Vocational Bridge Professional Program

The Vocational Bridge Professional, better known as VBPro was born out of a God given idea during a bible study and a conversation with one of the young men on Cedar Unit, (up on the hill). The young man explained that he was moving out in January of 2013 and going back to his hometown. He was looking forward to linking back up with old friends and hoping to stay out of trouble. I asked what his plan was for the future and he said that he wanted to become a brick layer (mason). I was excited to hear more as I had started my long career in construction and real estate as a mason myself.

Upon further investigation, I discovered he really had no idea how to make his dream a reality. On my way home that night I prayed for the young man and his future. However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that he didn't stand much of a chance. So I asked God for clarity regarding my meeting with this young man and how or what was I to do with this information. After a week or so and much prayer, the vision of some sort of training in construction appeared. I made a call to Chaplain Dunlap to discuss the opportunity and vision of the program.

Over the next few months a team for the program was put together and the vision for VBPro was born. The goal for VBPro is to introduce to these young men and women the different

trades in the construction industry and to complete a variety for projects in the community.

The first project and training will be in basic framing skills and the construction wood shelving for the 5th Ave food pantry that is currently being built by Vineyard Columbus. We feel that this will give the youth a connection with something outside the facility and a sense of pride for a job well done. They will be able to see tangible results for their efforts.



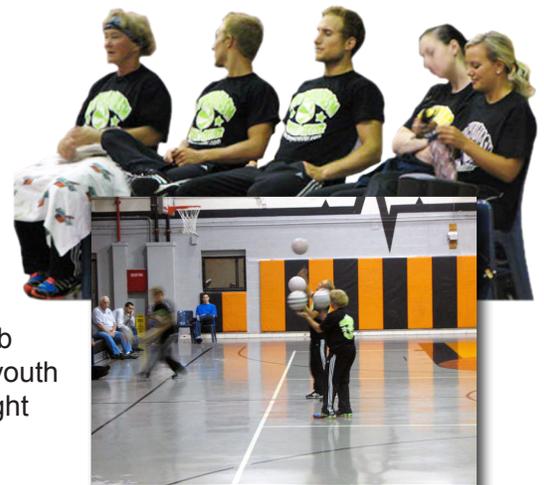
In the future we are planning a variety of different training modules in the various trades. This would include an introduction to the trade and how it applies in the real world. The goal would be that the youth can see something that excites them for their future.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact John Holt for more details. 614-554-3797. Special skills NOT needed, just a love of our Scioto kids and your own vision to see them successful in their future.

Submitted by: John Holt, volunteer

Bill Glass Weekend

Cuyahoga Hills Correctional Facility
The purpose of the Bill Glass Weekend is to assist the Church by equipping and igniting Christians to share their faith in Jesus Christ with incarcerated men, women and youth. This Ministry uses stage performers, such as Basketball and Football Players, Wrestlers, and even Unicyclist who offer their skills and talents and or fame to grab the attention of the audience. At CHJCF, one youth said the event was outstanding and even caught his attention.



Career Night at SCIOTO



Dear Ms. Baker,

On behalf of our little group, I want to thank you so much for making last night the wonderful experience that it was. This being our first involvement with SJCF. Each person on my team was prepared to present to just one or two individuals or to a group that could be inattentive or disruptive. Instead we were met by a large congregation of respectful, enthusiastic, attentive and responsive young men and women who engaged with intelligent questions. We are more confident than ever of the great potential of the youth at SJCF. Your young people have inspired us to work harder to help fulfill their potential in any way we can.



Boys Scouts of America have provided programming for youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility for several years. Recently, youth had the opportunity to participate in a *Pine Wood Derby* race. With the assistance of the carpentry teacher, youth built individual derby cars. Over the course of five weeks the cars began to take shape. Each car was designed, cut, sanded, and painted to perfection. On race day, representatives from the local Boy Scouts brought in the race track and the youth competed.

CJCF Bible Bowl Tournament

July 2nd the first Bible Bowl Tournament was conducted at CJCF. Since this was a demonstration tournament the competing teams were from outside of DYS. The youth from CJCF worked hard in preparation and it showed. They went up against two outside teams consisting of young adults who grew up in Bible Bowl. The outcome was that CJCF won three out of four games. Each of the CJCF youth received a well-deserved, certificate of Bible Bowl excellence and the admiration of their coach Bill Thomas.



Coach Bill Thomas and Josh Gorman of the National Bible Bowl

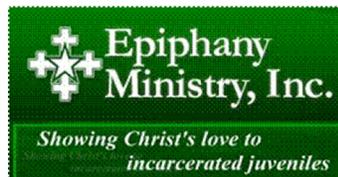
Leadership from National Bible Bowl was in attendance as well as several Bible Bowl enthusiasts from area churches. They expressed excitement with regard to the performance of the youth and the plans to expand Bible Bowl into other DYS facilities. Josh Gorman of National Bible Bowl stated that this plan has the support of the organization and will continue to make resources available in terms of study guides and buzzer equipment. Several of the church members expressed interest in coming to future tournaments and plan to follow the program with much needed prayer and support.

Also in attendance was Ralph Price, a minister from Streetsboro Ohio. He has expressed interest in developing a team for the Cuyahoga Juvenile Correctional Facility. Soon there will be inter-departmental Bible Bowl competition expanding the fun and excitement among the youth. This program will expand as more volunteers step up to coach teams.

River Tree Church at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility



Once a month at Indian River an organization adopts a unit and gets to visit with the youth on their units. River Tree Church adopts 4 of the 8 units and uses games and food to build an ongoing relationship with the youth, in hopes of positive life-long change.



Letter from SJCF Epiphany Volunteer

I would like to start by thanking you for the group of deacons you placed with us for the weekend. Maurice, Ryan, Shakeer, Tramaine, and Will were all a blessing to have. The boys were very respectful and always did whatever we asked of them. They never complained or said they wouldn't do it for us. I have been serving with Epiphany for almost eight years and I have to say these deacons were truly one of the best groups of deacons I have served with. Even when we were doing skits they did them willingly and they put their heart into it. The boys spoke very loud and clearly so everyone could hear them. Teresa the lay director even said what an awesome job they did. In the eight years I have known Teresa I have only seen her become emotional only a few times. When Teresa and I talked about how amazing the deacons were it brought tears to her eyes. Serving at Scioto was such a blessing I would just like to thank you for the opportunity to come and do God's work in the facility.

-Your Sister in Christ,
Kay Kuck