

October 2017



Restoration Village is just beggars telling other beggars where the Bread of Life is.

ONE PERSON AT A TIME!

Executive Directors:
David and Beverly Engle

Board of Directors:
Gary Anderson
Kelsey Baldwin
Guy Cable
Juan Carlos Segura
Steve Culpepper
Marty Parkhurst
Robyn Staggs
Natalie Tibbs

Advisory Board:
Sr. Lisa Atkins
Melinda Brown
Nancy Trammel

Board Emeritus:
Bill Gillingham, PhD (ret.)
Tom Hatley, ThD
Richard Knight, MD
Robert D. Ryan



Like us on
Facebook



Follow us
@RestoringHope89

RestorationVillage.net

2215 Little Flock Drive
Rogers, AR 72756



The Outsiders

For several years Restoration Village had received a block grant that represented five percent of our yearly operating budget. Recently that source pulled their funding because we “weren’t serving the masses” and our “services did not reach enough needy individuals.” I struggled over this decision because of our work at the Village, while we might not be alleviating the short term needs of the ‘masses’, we are making a long term difference in the lives of a few. Not long after we received the news, I was reading from Luke 4:21-30 and I contemplated on Jesus’ words to his hometown crowd. Instead of working in the lives of multiple Jews in their respective hometowns, Elijah was sent to minister to a Gentile Widow and her son, and Elisha was sent to heal a Gentile man of leprosy. The religious crowd to whom He was speaking to at the Tabernacle became so angry they led Jesus to a cliff to throw him off. I thought of that passage many times until I settled upon the reality, the Village wasn’t thrown off a cliff or cut off because we lost a financial resource. Because our true source is the Father and our ministry will always be towards the **individual** and

their family unit instead of the masses.

The Village is full of interruptions on a daily basis. There is always an agenda and priorities that need attended to, but as the day unfolds, people are the most important. I have stopped twice during the first two paragraphs, being interrupted to care for an **individual**. Two of our staff are already out transporting individuals to opposite sides of town and I am now being asked to take another to the parole office for a random screen. I’m sitting out in the truck with her infant son that just smiles and giggles with the attention that he is receiving from me. While I focus my attention on him, I also pray that his future will be as bright as the sun shining into the vehicle window. This **one lady** who is in her mid-twenties is employed for the first time ever; she is learning how to be a mother; she attends all of her counseling and advocacy sessions at the Village; she consistently reports as required to parole office; and as we drove back to the Village, she told me that she was studying to receive her learner’s driving permit. I used the time back to the property to remind her of how far she had already come, to encourage her to continue a forward life objective and to

Village News

Mentors make a Difference



“Mr. Marty is nice and teaches me new things”

In looking for a way to volunteer at the Village, last spring I learned of the need and decided to try being a mentor. I was at the stage of life when my youngest son was graduating from high school and would be starting college. I spoke with Tara, the mentor program coordinator, who let me know of an 8 year old boy who was living at the Village and would benefit from having a mentor relationship in his life. Although I thought he was a bit young, I decided to accept. After a bit of research I learned the main goal of a mentor is to be a positive presence- which sounded simple enough.

When I first met with my mentee and his mom, I felt quite comfortable with hanging out with him- he was a good hearted kid who wanted to have fun. We have done very simple activities such as playing Frisbee, mini-golf, swimming at the Bentonville recreation center, going to High Rise and Chuck E Cheese. Over the summer our church held a Vacation Bible school so I thought this might be a great opportunity for him to have some fun and get exposure to Christ in a different setting. Since I was taking him anyway I decided to go ahead and stay, volunteering to help for the week. I was really impressed with how much he was able to retain from the lessons each day and especially when he asked if he could get baptized. He was able to clearly articulate to the pastor his desire and that he truly understood the meaning. His parents both came to witness the event- **it was awesome!**

Although I still do not feel I am really doing much, I do believe that just spending time with him and having a bit of fun is a great investment of my time in his success. Hopefully, as he gets older and has the need for advice or just to vent, he knows that I am here for him. *Marty*

We know from research and from stories of mentor relationships like Marty’s that youth who have a consistent adult presence in their life see positive gains in their educational endeavors, daily life, and in their future career success.

You can be a part of positive change for a child at the Village! To find out more about our mentor program, please complete our online volunteer interest form at <http://www.restorationvillage.net/volunteer/>. For more information about the positive benefits of youth mentors, please visit www.mentoring.org.

It’s fall at the Village

It is fall and we are busy preparing for our annual fall festival, Halloween fun and the season of thanks. There are more ways than ever for you to get involved and support the Village!

We are currently seeking donations of gift-cards for our fall festival, Halloween costumes for the children at the Village, and donations from our ongoing needs list.

No time to shop, no problem – You can make a cash donation in support of our advocacy efforts, donate a gift-card and we will do the shopping for you, or order online from your favorite retailer and have items shipped directly to the Village at 2215 Little Flock Dr. Little Flock, AR 72756. Plus your donation to Restoration Village is tax deductible.



In Memory

Faunelle Deaton, wife of Marion Deaton. 12/25/51 to 0925/17. We mourn with Marion, daughter Jacquelyn, two step daughters, and 3 grandchildren with deepest sympathy at the loss of a beautiful lady. We knew her six years before there was a Restoration Village; she was among the first to volunteer in the summer of 1989 to scrub floors, clean commodes and join others with a diligent spirit to clean and prepare the facilities of RV to open to women and children. (We will share more of her story in the November newsletter). She, and later Marion, have been contributors every month for 28 years. Her presence in our memory, her unselfishness, her concern for others, even during these past few years, months and weeks as she fought against cancer, is a legacy forever of God's grace.



Stars of Hope

We invite you to participate in our **Stars of Hope** holiday program. **Giving back is easy, you can adopt an adult, child, or family from our stars of hope and we will share that individual or families wish list with you.** To get started, follow this link <http://bit.ly/2yipGO4>.

To adopt a family simply select all the names with the same number and (*). Donations will be accepted through December 15, 2017.

We welcome participation by church, civic, and school groups. To find out how you can bring hope to a woman and or family at the Village or for questions about the Stars of Hope Holiday Program, please contact Cie Cochran at cie@restorationvillage.net.



Volunteer Spotlight

This summer I received a call from Annie with the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL). Annie shared that she was a part of a group whose mission was to provide mothers and sons with an opportunity to connect with one another through service to their community. I was excited, as I always am, when I receive calls from interested volunteers but I was especially thrilled because they wanted to come on a regular basis and they placed a strong emphasis on the parent/child relationship - a value that we share here at the Village.

Sherri Esarte, the chapter president shared the following reflection about her motivation to start the local chapter. "When my neighbor told me about YMSL, I knew I wanted to start a chapter here right away. Not only were my boys growing up way too fast, they were -- appropriately -- spending more time with friends and at school activities and less time hanging out with mom. I was driving them to club meetings and watching their games and asking if they did their homework, but we weren't spending much time doing stuff *together*. I jumped at the chance to carve out some one-on-one time with them, especially because we'd be helping others in the process.

I think it's natural to be a little self-involved as a teenager -- I know I was -- but this organization opens their eyes to the world at large, and connects them with others in the community who can really use their help and companionship. It shows them they truly can make a difference, and that there are so many ways we can help each other out."



We are extremely grateful to Annie, Wanda, Sherri, and the other members of the YMSL for your commitment to supporting Restoration Village and for sharing the value of service through positive relationships.

Continued from Page 1

be faithful in the small things as then bigger things will occur.

We have a new professionally produced video that is about 12 minutes in length that focuses on 2 of our former residents. Each of the ladies share a small portion of their life journey of how they heard about and came to be a resident at the Village, the services they were offered, and their long journey to complete education, work placement, and begin a new life as an overcomer – not as a victim. It is available for viewing on our webpage restorationvillage.net on the homepage. The video was premiered to a gathering of men last month. In the room of over a hundred men, the response was of reflective somberness and quietness as the men were then moved to action in a very kind and generous way.

“Adult addicts” are described by Steven Arterburn in his book *Addicted to Love* as “essentially children seeking parents to love them unconditionally.” The core beliefs of an addictive mindset are: I am a bad, worthless person and undeserving of love; no one would love me if they really knew me; if I don’t meet my own needs, then nobody else will. In her Doctoral Dissertation, *Feeling Wronged Leads to Entitlement and Selfishness*, Emily Zitek demonstrates that individuals who feel that they have been wronged in some way or hold on to a victim mentality have an increased sense of entitlement, are more likely to be angry, and exhibit an unwillingness to be attentive to the needs of others. Reflection on the pain that they have in their lives leads to a “the world owes me mentality.” Mary Karr, in a commencement address given at Syracuse, said “the most privileged person in this dome suffers the torments of the damned just going about the business of being human.” None of us get off this planet without having suffered enormously. And one of the chief ways that we suffer is by loving people who are incredibly limited by the fact that they are human beings, and they are going to disappoint us and break our hearts. We are all

“Those to whom we serve, are looking for an inclusionary family and unconditional acceptance.”

heartbroken. For me, there was a great release of pretension and of judgmental attitudes when I personally accepted the reality that “I am a human being with a propensity to mess things up.”

I don’t like the phrase, “Hate the sin, but love the sinner.” I do understand the message that it is attempting to convey, but since I have the propensity to mess things up, I have no judgment to pass on another, unlike the religious leadership that heard Jesus in the tabernacle. He angered them by giving them two illustrations of how the prophets passed by the “chosen Israelites” in order to show favor on gentile strangers, a widow with child, and a general with leprosy – true outsiders indeed. God’s love targets the outsiders! Love is inclusionary, receptive, it is “mercy, not sacrifice.”

Those to whom we serve, are looking for an inclusionary family and unconditional acceptance. As exemplified in the new video, you will hear both former residents share of acceptance, encouragement, love, growing in faith, and most of all hope.

Brene Brown in her new book *Braving the Wilderness*, using her skills as a statistician and researcher, writes in such a way as to put all the data and studies into an easy to understand summary. She suggests that we are in a spiritual crisis and says, “when our belief system that there is something greater than us, rooted in love and compassion, breaks, we are more likely to retreat to our bunkers, to hate from afar, to tolerate bulls***, and to dehumanize others.”

Restoration Village is just beggars telling other beggars where the Bread of Life is. **One person at a time.**

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:29-32)

