



# NEWSLETTER

April 2017

## Get Involved!

### Pray:

We appreciate & need your prayers! Please contact us if you would like to receive our monthly prayer updates.

### Volunteer:

We would love for you to partner with us. Current volunteer opportunities are listed on the back.

### Donate:

Our events and outreaches are funded by the generous donations of organizations and individuals. If you would like to support us financially you can make checks payable to Freedom Outreach and mail them to 3224 Appleton Rd. Landenberg, PA 19350 or donate on the website.

All earmarked donations are tax deductible.

### Contact Us:

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Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/freedomoutreachwilmington.com

**Thank you for partnering  
with us!**

## GOD LED ME BACK!

By Keisha Jackson, Freedom Outreach Relational Director

It sure does feel great to be back! ... although I did not go too far. In January I took on the role of Relational Director of Freedom Outreach. It has been cool to be back in this role. I was pretty sad when I stepped down from the director the first time. I remember having a meeting with Lynn Latshaw before I left and she said just because you are leaving now does not mean God won't lead you back! I feel like that was a prophetic word because here I am back and I feel so much more confident and stronger this time around. It has been amazing to see how God has provided already. Finding people to drive the van has been something we have needed for a really long time and already this year God has provided! We also have someone who just started tutoring twice a week and also have two new male volunteers! All the new people that have joined the team are an answer to prayer. It has been a fun ride so far and I am excited to see all that God has for Freedom Outreach and me this year!



## HIDING GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS

By Katy Hayes, a Freedom Outreach Volunteer

This past fall I started co-leading a younger girls group with Ann Neilson. The group has four girls who are all about eight years old. We have been having so much fun with them!

We meet every other Monday at the outreach house in Wilmington. We try to give them some time in the beginning or end to play. Ann and I rotate teaching a lesson, doing some sort of craft and Bible memorization. We have been learning how God cares for them and how nothing is impossible with God. The girls have been memorizing their Bible verse week after week which has been so awesome to see!

We have also done some fun activities with the girls like seeing Christmas lights, walking on the Riverfront or taking them to Rita's. They have really loved doing these activities together! We are enjoying building relationships with these girls and helping them learn about God! God is working in Wilmington and I love being part of these girls' lives!



# YOU WON'T REGRET IT!

By Anna Richardson, former Relational Director

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Drive a van of kids to or from church on Sunday mornings. We will ride with you until you are comfortable. It is a great way to meet and minister to kids.
- Become a mentor, or sponsor.
- Play in the park in Riverside, Wednesday at 4:30pm.
- Get involved in our annual outreaches & fundraisers.
- Help with repairs at the outreach house in Wilmington.



I had no idea what I was getting in to. Tom said we would go prayer walking at 10 pm on a Friday because that's when the people are out and inclined to say yes to Jesus conversations and prayer. Then there was homework club. And then Friday fun nights. I remember it used to take me the rest of the evening to recover from those 2 hours of chaos and noise. After all that came Riverside. By then the Outreach was a big part of my life but Riverside was what sealed the deal. As I prayer walked there, I fell head over heels in love with no chance of turning back. That's where I met the families I would form the closest relationships with. Shantae and her family were first. I can still see her at age 2 running down the sidewalk to meet me wearing a big baby tooth grin and overalls. Then there was New-new with her cooking lessons for things like fried chicken and yock. Her daughter, Piggy, was another favorite of mine and the first child I brought to church regularly. She was soon joined by Arianna and Nay who would tell me stories from their week all the way from Wilmington to the Barn. I have so many memories, some painful, but more happy, of play times in the streets of Riverside. Countless kickball games and thousands upon thousands of turns of double-dutch ropes provided the framework for meaningful relationships between volunteers and amazing kids and families. It was a tremendous honor to be a part of what God was doing in the people's lives. I remember feeling a sense of awe and holiness each time someone would pray earnestly to Jesus with me or entrust the aches of their hearts to me for prayer and comfort. I knew I was dealing with the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven and should therefore tread with careful reverence!

These past 17 years have shaped and completely transformed me so deeply, I don't even know who I'd be without Freedom Outreach. I marvel and grieve as I look around me at the kids I used to buckle in car seats who are now fully grown. Some are full of life, maturing into the amazing adults they were created to be. Others have had life taken from them too soon either literally by being killed or figuratively by the seemingly endless crime and poverty cycles that so easily entrap. There have been so many highs and lows over the years, so much joy and so many tears. I'm not sure I even know where to begin to process it all. I am grateful to God for each person who entered my life through Freedom Outreach. They've impacted my life in ways I can never express.

But now I'm exchanging running taxi service for our teens for running errands with toddlers. I'm leaving ministering to hundreds for an audience of 2. I wouldn't trade the last 17 years but looking forward to the next 17 as I raise my boys; I wouldn't trade those either!

If you feel your heart moving you to find out more about Freedom Outreach, I strongly urge you to do so and get involved! It will not always be easy and it will often be inconvenient, but it will change the way you see yourself, God and everything around you as the Holy Spirit transforms you into deeper Christlikeness. You won't regret it!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS & OUTREACHES

Easter Party-Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30pm

Roses for a Cause Fundraiser-Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Riverside Community Outreach-Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2-6pm

Southbridge Community Outreach-Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 12:30-4:30pm

Riverside Community Outreach- Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 12:30-4:30pm