



Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future
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Responsible Charity

If you're reading this newsletter, then you are most likely concerned about families who are living in poverty. You feel compassion for the poor, and you certainly don't want anyone to be hungry, or cold, or without a Christmas present. That's the same way that we feel within the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation. However, as we work among low income families on a daily basis, we must sort out which of our actions help families and which might actually be hurting them.



Our goal is to help children to develop the tools that they'll need to get out of poverty. We know that education and mentoring provide those tools, and our after school programs are right on target. However, we struggle with making the right decisions concerning hand-outs. What happens to families when they have constant access to free clothing, food, school supplies, holiday gifts, and more? Is this helpful or are we contradicting our own long-term goals? What do the children learn if we provide all of their needs rather than having them rely on their parents' hard work and resourcefulness? Are we helping or hurting?

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation and the Altoona Housing Authority have teamed up to offer a workshop that will help all organizations, churches, and businesses to evaluate and maximize their charity practices. What can we do to *really* help those who live in poverty? How do we make sure that no one goes hungry without encouraging people to become totally reliant on charity?

The "Responsible Charity" workshop will be led by Shawn Duncan from Focused Community Strategies in Atlanta, Georgia. It will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Two local authorities, Dr. Zane Gates and Robin Beck will also be presenting. Please see the attached sheet for more information. Please mark your calendar and help spread the word. Thanks!

A Bright Future for Ja'Quesha

The Gloria Gates Foundation has an unwritten but heartfelt policy that says once a child is part of the foundation, he or she is always a part of the foundation. One young woman in particular, Ja'Quesha Nelson, lit up our lives when she came to the after school program and she is continuing to brighten lives. Ja'Quesha attended the GGMF after school program at Evergreen Manors from 2007-2010. She was smart and polite while doing her homework, but also fearless while playing dodge ball afterwards.



Ja'Quesha studied to be a Certified Nursing Assistant during her high school years, and was named the Health Clinician of the Year when she graduated from the Greater Altoona Career and Technical Center. She now works as a CNA at the Valley View Nursing Home. When asked if she likes her job, she replied "I love my job. I love taking care of all my residents. Even during holidays when I have to work, I love being there with them and making their day better."

When asked if the GGMF after school program helped her in any way, she said “The after school program helped me out a lot. I loved being there every day after school, and I am trying to continue my education into the nursing field. I would love to be a RN one day and I'm working my hardest to accomplish that”. We are so proud of Ja’Quesha and we wish her the best always.

Chemistry Club Outreach

Is science intimidating or is it invigorating? A group of students from the Saint Francis University chemistry club recently visited the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation after school program at Fairview Hills. The purpose of the visit was to engage the GGMF students in chemistry experiments to prove that science is fascinating. The college students introduced the children to the basic concept of acid versus base materials using blueberries and household products. The younger students also learned to conduct an experiment using safety glasses and proper procedure. The Saint Francis Chemistry Club received a Rural Outreach Chemistry for Kids grant to fund their endeavor.



Thank you for helping children to take their first steps towards a brighter future!

Volunteer Saves the Day!

The Gloria Gates Foundation has three after school program sites this year. They are located at Evergreen Manors, Fairview Hills, and Logan Hills. Each school day, the children enrolled in the programs are served a very healthy snack. That means someone has to go grocery shopping every Monday morning from late August through early June. Two years ago, **Sally Settimio** volunteered to *help* the GGMF Director to purchase the week’s groceries then to deliver the food to each site. When Toni was diagnosed with cancer and was somewhat slowed down by treatments this fall, Sally took on the huge task of grocery shopping all on her own. It’s a big job to get a week’s worth of groceries for 60-75 children. However, Sally does it all and the children continue to enjoy a very healthy snack each day. Sally Settimio is truly an amazing volunteer, and the Foundation is very grateful for her dedication.

Banking On it

The GGMF after school programs each have a prize cabinet where the children shop with money that they earn by completing their assigned jobs. The children get ‘paid’ once a month, and they can choose to shop or they can save their money. If they choose to save, they earn \$1.00 in interest each month. It’s so exciting to see the children saving their money until they can afford to purchase the item that they really want. The kids are learning early budgeting and banking skills as well developing delayed gratification which has been linked to a more successful lifestyle in adults.



