



# Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation

Opening the Gates to a Brighter Future

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## Our Mission

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation strives to help break the cycle of poverty that can ultimately determine the future of generations. The Foundation works to bring hope, resilience, and direction to children through after school programs that concentrate on academic success and the development of personal integrity. The Foundation wants every child to reach his potential in life regardless of family income.

## Job Openings

The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation operates three after school program sites located at Evergreen Manors, Fairview Hills, and Logan Hills. All three locations are in low income housing developments. The foundation has openings for at least two staff members. We are looking for an Assistant Site Director and a Prevention Support Staff person. Candidates are required to have at least two years of post-high school



education, access to email, and a strong interest in working with youth-at-risk. If you or anyone you know is looking for a very rewarding job, please send a cover letter and resume to [director@ggmf.org](mailto:director@ggmf.org) by July 22, 2015. Applicants must have state and federal clearances to work with youth; clearances are now easy to acquire at: <http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/findaform/childabusehistoryclearanceforms/index.htm>.

## A Big Step Forward

The Gloria Gates Foundation has sponsored after school programs for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade for fifteen years. Most children attend the after school programs for at least two or three years, and some attend as many as six or seven years. The foundation stays in touch with the children once they are beyond 6<sup>th</sup> grade when possible, and some of the older kids volunteer at the after school programs. However, we realize that junior high school students are vulnerable to many negative influences and we want to offer them continued support.

The GGMF will pilot a new program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year at our Logan Hills site. Under the direction of Jody Christen and Lizzie Martinsen, the after school program will be designed to serve the K-6 graders as normal, but extra hours will be added to accommodate the teens. Special projects will be offered to interest and challenge the older children. We are all very excited about this endeavor, and we hope that we can eventually have a teen program at all three of our sites.

## Summer Fun

Even though the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation concentrates primarily on academic success through after school programs, we could never go all summer without seeing the kids. Summer is our time to have fun with the kids and to introduce new children to our organization. GGMF staff members have planned a summer program for all three of our current sites including Evergreen Manors, Fairview Hills, and Logan Hills. The summer activities are relaxed and varied. The kids will get to try their hand at science

experiments, arts and crafts, relay contests, cooking, and hopefully a field trip to the new spray park in the Juniata section of Altoona.

### **Taming of the Kindergarteners**

As Executive Director, I often visit the after school programs and observe the progress children make in their academic and social skills over the years. It's a lovely picture, and it's a picture that is often interrupted by a pair of kindergarten students fighting over a chair, a marker, or a building block. Sometimes I question why we let these cute but disruptive little ones join us each day. Things would go much smoother if we let them mature a year, just like cheese or wine.

However, research concerning breaking the cycle of poverty shows that early education is crucial. Studies have proven that children from low income households are likely to be behind in early reading and math skills before they even get to kindergarten. They are often behind in social and verbal skills as well. At the GGMF after school programs, our staff members dedicate a lot of patience and teaching to this age group. They work hard to help the kindergarteners to keep up with their peers at school. We certainly can't let them slip behind even further. Although the kindergarteners are very lively, I know that the GGMF staff members embrace the challenge and love every minute.

### **A GGMF Teacher's Point of View**

As a teacher at the GGMF program, I feel that a staff member's impact on kids is not about the awesome snacks we serve, the wonderful activities we offer, or even the many hugs we get and give daily. It's about being a positive role model and a responsible and safe



person for the children who attend our program. We teach and model many life skills such as being responsible for our possessions, using manners, being appreciative, and taking care of ourselves both body and mind. We celebrate the children's strengths and individuality, and we are helping to create confident and secure children.

Ms. Jonnie Frederick

### **Thanks, Maggie!**

The Gloria Gates Foundation is grateful for every donation received no matter how large or small. Each donation helps us to make life brighter for children who may be facing hard times at home. However, it always amazes us when we see children making sacrifices to help other children. That's exactly what Maggie Brouse did this week. Maggie, daughter of Katie and Thomas Brouse, asked her birthday party guests to bring art supplies for the GGMF in lieu of gifts. Maggie, her mother, and grandmother Janie Hite delivered a car full of paint, brushes, paper, clay, and more.



### **Will You Share Your Talent for One Hour?**

Many of the children enrolled in our after school programs have limited opportunity to take part in extracurricular activities where they would see a wider view of the world. That's why we greatly appreciate visitors who are willing to share their special interests with the children. If you have a hobby, career, or talent that you are willing to share with the GGMF children, please contact Toni Bilik at 949-8838 or [director@ggmf.org](mailto:director@ggmf.org). We would love to have you visit at one of our after school program sites. We are only asking for an hour of your time and a willingness to show the children a part of your world.