

PROGRAMS

- Elevate
- Buford Tutoring
- Walker Tutoring
- CHS Tutoring
- Johnson Tutoring
- Ladies of Quality Jr
- Ladies of Quality Sr
- Intelligent Girls Club
- 5/8 Club
- Fri. Afternoon Bible Club
(6-9 year olds)
- Individual Development
Accounts (IDA)
- Senior Solutions
- Hispanic Outreach
- Summer Camp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries

NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

December 2010

Affirming Faith By Rashawnda James

August 14, 2010 was a joyous celebration with family and friends. This was the day that I married Rudy Carey, a godly man and the love of my life. On this day, I began the journey of learning how to love myself by allowing my husband to love me. What follows is an account of the events that led to the fulfillment of part of God's plan for my life.



Judith and Amillion at BRC
Rashawnda James

I met Andrea Magri Kean in 2002 when I was in middle school. At that time, she was a student at UVA and volunteered with the Ladies of Quality group at Abundant Life. As a member of LQ, I was introduced to many amazing stories of God's love, however my own struggles made it difficult to be hopeful about life. Andrea and the other LQ leaders have been an extremely positive influence upon me. Andrea was able to see my talent and vulnerability through my fears and shame. It was her willingness to love me that would eventually make us a family.

My last year in high school, Andrea's parents, Joe and Karen Magri, took a leap of faith to become my legal guardians. Many folks joined around to provide their support and guidance, including Rydell Payne, the director of Abundant Life. In the following years, Rydell remained a strong advocate of my potential and goals.

The weeks and years that followed in the Magri household were definitely not easy. There were painful conversations, hurt, and the general strain of living together as a family. But these have reminded each of us of our need for God's help. And though we cannot overlook those challenges, there are countless stories of wonderful times that we've all had together—like Joe helping me to shop for a prom dress. The Magri family did not only accept me but also those closest to me, like my best friend Alvita and brother Lloyd. As we all gathered around the table to celebrate holidays, the Magri's home became a place where unforgettable memories were created.

Rashawnda, Rudy and the Magris



During the days of my wedding week-end, it was no surprise that my second family would have deep pleasure in celebrating with me. Over the years, I had wanted many times to give up on the relationship with my mother and father. However, Joe and Karen knew that God's love could heal any wound. I strongly believe in my heart that the Magri family is what strengthened my religion and my hope with my biological family. From Andrea always being relentless with her love even when I closed up my heart, to Joe and Karen reinforcing my faith, all these things gave me strength to love and prosper. So, to have my two families gathered together for the rehearsal

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Rydell Payne
Executive Director

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I would like to help support Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries (CALM).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Can you pledge? _____ (amt. / month or year)

Give a one-time amount ? _____ (amt enclosed)

Volunteer ? _____ (preferred area of service?)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mail this form & gift to: Charlottesville Abundant Life,
P.O. Box 3482
Charlottesville, VA 22903



Want to receive your Abundant Life Newsletter by e-mail?

Starting with this edition we are now e-mailing the newsletter to all who ask to be on that distribution list instead of receiving it by snail mail. To make that request, or any other change to your contact information, send you request to susan@charlottesvilleabundantlife.org

Your Gifts and Prayers are Urgently Needed NOW!

The government grant that paid for much of our elementary tutoring program for the last 3 years ended in July but that program continues. However, for the first time in several years financial gifts to the Ministry from individuals and churches are significantly below what we need to support the programs being provided this year. We continue to rely on the Lord's provision to carry on the work He has given us but we ask you to seriously consider the role He may be asking you to play by making a tax-deductible gift to help us. We know that the bad economy has hurt many of our friends and supporters but please know that whatever size gift you can give will be used to further the work of advancing the kingdom among our neighbors on Prospect Avenue. Whether you can give or not, please pray for the Lord to provide the money needed to allow us to end the year with all our debts paid and with resources to continue to pay our staff and support the ministry into 2011. Thank you.

Make a Difference Day

by Andrew Morrissett and Jackie Schuld

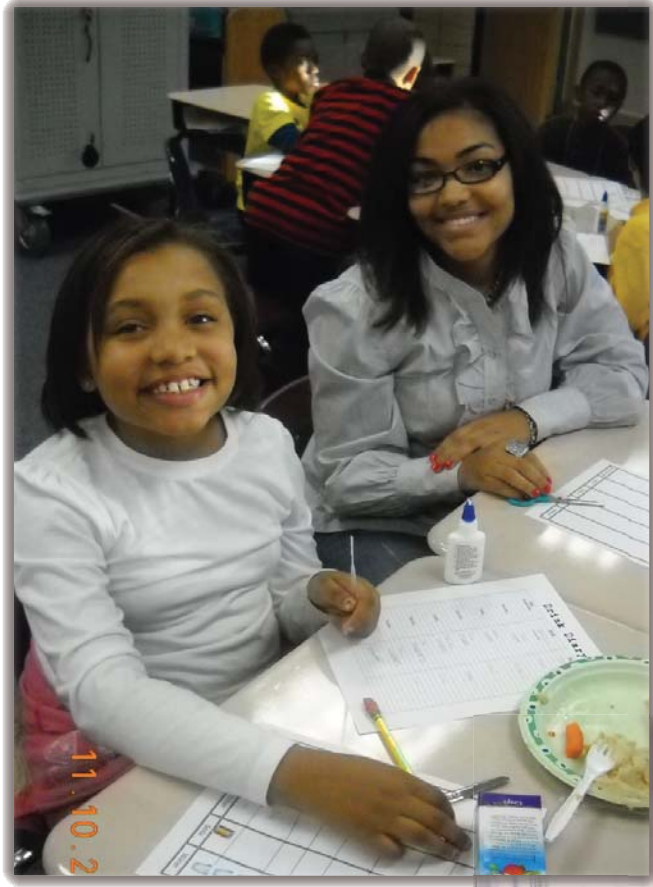


Christina Webb, and Jackie Schuld took six k-4th grade girls on a hiking adventure to Humpback Rock. Armed with bottles of water and walking sticks, the group ascended the mountain. At the top, they enjoyed sandwiches, apples, bananas, and brownies before sliding through the leaves on their way down.

While the girls were enjoying a brisk fall hike, AmeriCorps member Andrew Morrissett and CALM staffer Richard Feero prepared to take a group of 7th and 8th grade boys to a UVa home football game. After a quick bite to eat, the group walked at an anxious clip to the stadium, excited to see some college football action. At the game, the boys enjoyed dancing, hanging out, interacting with other fans, eating funnel cakes, and cheering the Hoos onto a victory over Eastern Michigan. It was a great way to celebrate Make a Difference day.

Christmas Banquet Highlights

more on pg. 4



the largest influence on a child's health, but that doesn't negate the impact that meaningful, interactive education can have on a child's life. I celebrate the small changes I see due to the program. Just last week, one of the girls we teach came up to me and proudly declared, "Miss Jackie! I drank an entire bottle of water at lunch!"



Affirming Faith cont.

dinner and wedding was something that was the fulfilling of hopes long desired. It was a beautiful day. I truly felt God's love shining in all directions: as I was walked down the aisle by my "two dads," as I made and received vows to my husband, and celebrated with so many people who have loved me and encouraged me along the way. I stood proud this day knowing that the road leading up was cold and rough, but God had placed godly people in my life to help guide me to warmth and serenity.

As of today, the warmth and serenity continue to shine through. I am standing proof that with support and love, anyone can succeed. An outsider would praise my accomplishments of my advanced high school diploma and my bachelors degree from the University of Virginia. As an insider, I know that God provided me with love and opportunities that enabled me to thrive. Abundant Life made these accomplishments possible by presenting me the occasions for my talents to out-shine my hardships. Whether it was Ladies of Quality, retreats, or college field trips, it all contributed to enhancing my perspectives and hope to a better future. Personally, I would like to thank the Abundant Life Organization and its supporters and reaffirm that you are making a difference.

Currently, I am obtaining my Masters of Social Work in Florida at Barry University. I was inspired by Abundant Life's calling to live out my personal mission of helping and encouraging others. My field placement for my program is at a homeless shelter. As an aspiring social worker, my role is to counsel individuals and families with emotional and mental issues. I find it pleasant to refer back to actions and words of those at Abundant Life to encourage my clients and challenge myself. In my life, I have witnessed how individuals and one organization can have far more influence than anticipated. Thank you again for making me a believer that change is possible!

Health for Kids

by Jackie Schuld

"A calorie is what makes you fat!" This was one of the many answers I received when I posed the question, "What is a calorie?" to a group of k-4th graders. As an AmeriCorps member, I've been lucky to work with CALM's recently launched health program for children. The program focuses on teaching a small group of children about nutrition and health through engaging activities and projects. Recent topics have included "Choosing Healthy Snacks," "Fast Food," "The Importance of Water," and "Germ Day." In addition to educational activities, time is also devoted toward physical recreation and homework. Outside activities have included water relays, hip-hop dancing, and balloon races. Healthy snacks like apples, watermelon, carrots, and celery (a surprising hit!) are also offered weekly.

As I've discussed the program with friends and colleagues, I'm inevitably asked, "But how do you teach kids about health when it really boils down to what their parents do?" It may be true that parents have