



OUR BEST SUMMER EVER!

The presence of God’s love was palpable. Like a favorite time-worn blanket, it warmed and protected the hearts of the young teenage women, some with heads bent, some with arms around each other, who sat listening as the track “Take me to the King” played... (lyrics featured on the right)



Like that comforting familiar blanket, summer staff member Mary spoke:

“We are going to dance to this. But we can’t dance these words if we don’t know the King the song is talking about. I love you, and want you to really know Him. Think about what the words mean. What do you want to lay at His feet? He loves you.”

God’s love was present speaking comfort, peace, and shalom to the group of teenagers. What started as two dancers had morphed into close to a dozen. The power of healing through dance was as real as God’s presence. Slowly Mary walked through the group, lovingly crying and praying for each person. They were preparing to dance at The Boston Project’s Big Event summer closing program, but **God was doing something bigger, something greater.**

It could have been just another dance practice, but Mary’s love for God and the girls moved her to tap into their hearts and lives. Imagine if you were a neighbor and witnessed the dozen girls on the outdoor stage; what might you have thought seeing this spontaneous moment of community in the early evening hours at Elmhurst Park? God’s shalom is in our neighborhood.

All of our staff this summer, like Mary, wore God’s love each day they came to work. At The Boston Project our mission is “to build strong communities characterized by God’s shalom.” Over 250 young people, both local youth participating in summer jobs and youth learning & serving with the Summer Missions Program experienced shalom through our staff’s unconditional love. The impact is immeasurable. Listen to their reflections and be inspired to love deeper and wider than you thought possible!



“I saw God’s love when I was around Mary. You felt the love of God from her. Her hand on your shoulder. And she would constantly talk about God’s love.”

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(Left to right: Romain, Cady, Tahnai, Mary)

“Take me to the King
I don’t have much to bring
My heart is torn in pieces
It’s my offering
Take me to the King

Truth is I’m tired
Options are few
I’m trying to pray
But where are you?
I’m all church’d out
Hurt and abused
I can’t fake
What’s left to do?...

Lay me at the throne
Leave me there alone
To gaze upon Your glory
And sing to You this song
Please take me to the King...”

Song by Kirk Franklin



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“I have seen God’s love in Christian and Mary. One of Christian’s random devotionals spoke to me and when Mary was talking about how Jesus died for all of us. I would die for my siblings, but Jesus died for ALL of us.”

“God expressed his love through all you guys (neighborhood summer staff). I’m glad that God is surrounding me with you guys. You all genuinely just care.”

“Other jobs would have fired us. But you gave us second chances and told us you loved us!”

Your partnership through the 2017 Summer Love Campaign made so much possible! We were able to employ 25 teenagers at Boston Project. Another 100+ elementary age children came to our Elmhurst Park program. And 400+ neighbors enjoyed Family Fun Nights! **Thanks for making God’s shalom real to so many people.**



#SUMMERLOVE GENEROSITY

You gave \$38,355 from
46 Individual/Families
3 Churches
10 Foundations/Businesses

(Top: Teens produced Bible story puppet shows throughout the summer. Right: MiAsia, part of our Brotherhood-Sisterhood program, served fresh fruit at Family Fun Nights at Elmhurst Park.)



NEWS around the BLOCK



SLOW STREETS WORK BEGINS

In 2013, after a 10-year old was hit on his bike by a car on Elmhurst Street, neighbors began advocating for more pedestrian and biking safety measures. In 2015, we were chosen for a City of Boston pilot project called *Slow Streets*. This week, the work began installing crosswalks, speed humps, daylighting intersections, new stop signs, and more. Another victory for TNT Neighbors!

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In October, a team from The Boston Project and the Neighborhood Church of Dorchester attended the national Christian Community Development conference in Detroit. **Resilience** was the conference theme; exploring how we remain effective and sustainable for the long haul. We are entering our 22nd year of ministry in the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle and now expanding to serve nearby communities.



BOSTON PROJECT REUNION GATHERING

This summer, Paul & Glenna hosted a reunion for young adults who were once teenagers participating in The Boston Project’s programs between 2006-2013. Today, these men and women hold a host of professional jobs and have adventurous lives. The afternoon was filled with food, dominoes, and catching up. We have been strengthening youth and families through friendship and programs since 1998.



(Staff) Christian propose to Mary at The Big Event. She said “Yes!”

Gordon College Clarendon Scholars assemble backpacks



Your donations allowed us to distribute 100 backpacks to youth.

Aletheia Church plants trees with TNT neighbors on 2 Saturdays.



Introducing Paulea Mooney-McCoy

NEW DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP & PROGRAMS

Following a prayerful nationwide search, the Board and Executive Team are proud to introduce our new Director of Leadership and Programs, Paulea Mooney-McCoy. Paulea has a passion for neighborhood ministry, coupled with a rich background in leadership development and program management.

Paulea lives and has raised her family here in the Dorchester/Codman Square neighborhood just shy of four decades. She been connected to The Boston Project for 20+ years. Serving faithfully on our Board of Directors for over a decade, Paulea has provided unique guidance and counsel to the ministry. To say we were surprised and humbled when she submitted her application is an understatement. Paulea comes to us from her former position as Director of the Clarendon Scholars Program at Gordon College.



A CONVERSATION WITH PAULEA

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Yonkers, New York. My mother called it “The City of Gracious Living.” It was great place to grow up; a suburb of New York City, but extremely urban. My mother was an educator in New York City until she retired, and I grew up in a neighborhood where I knew my neighbors. I remember one neighbor who was constantly watching the park ensuring that the kids were acting right.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH. I grew up like many other children of color, attending church and Sunday School faithfully; it was a requirement for me until I was 12. At this point I moved away from the church, but always seemed to be looking for meaning in life. I was interested in and explored eastern religions in high school, and other faith traditions in college at Brandeis University, but none seemed to sit right with me. **I eventually met a couple who shared Jesus with me. I was convinced that I wanted a relationship with God like they had.** I met my husband Bil in Gospel Choir at Brandeis and the rest is history! We eventually married and have 3 beautiful children together: Caleb, Ethan and Nyasha.

WHAT DRAWS YOU TO TBPM? When Paul and Glenna first came to the neighborhood years ago and spoke of this ministry, I thought to myself “This is an amazing vision and our community needs this, but they are outsiders.” I wondered if it would last. Having attended the same church with them for several years, I saw the ministry grow and flourish. Early on I was asked to join the Board and have been connected ever since. I never thought that there would be an opportunity to become more deeply involved like this.

This past year I was having a conversation with a colleague that drew out **what I’m so passionate about: leadership development for the purpose of investing in urban communities.** I want to help grow urban leaders and create local and national networks of people who desire to see God’s Shalom in the city. I had a moment in my colleague’s office where I realized this matched right up with The Boston Project and I called Paul a few minutes later.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL PASSIONS? Music, Drumming, and Reading.

WHAT DOES SHALOM MEAN TO YOU? Things being in right relationship with one another - starting with our Creator. It is a wholistic sense of well being; caring, love, respect, and sacrifice between the people who live here and with one’s self. During my first two months this summer, I saw shalom with my own eyes. The Boston Project’s impact in people’s lives is real!

Afro-Latin drumming this summer.



GOD'S SHÄ-LÖM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Summer Missions Program Returns!

"This week I learned that despite being in this broken world, God's shalom can be found everywhere in the most unexpected ways." - teen participant

After a one year hiatus (2016), the Summer Missions Program returned, revamped and re-energized! Our theme was God's Shalom in the Neighborhood! We intentionally chose to have a stronger focus on cross-cultural learning including dinners at local ethnic restaurants, working alongside neighbors of all ages, and immersing in simulation activities that were engaging and eye-opening experiences.

This was our first time teaching the biblical concept of shalom, which is central to the mission and heart of The Boston Project. Each day focused on one of the many aspects of God's shalom - a right relationship with Jesus, ourselves, creation, and one another.

Key to the impact of the program was our summer staff. They were an especially unique group who were all from, or representative of, the community. Through them, youth learned more about Jesus, and the beauty of God's shalom within our neighborhood. Below are testimonies from participants who came this summer.

"I learned I can bring shalom back home to my neighborhood."

"Shalom can be shown in so many different ways: through people, events, or small moments. It is not hard to be a shalom seeker and believer because it is everywhere. God's creation is just proof of how great He really is."

"Shalom is more than peace. Shalom is a way of life."

"From the BP house, I learned what hospitality looks like. There were people constantly coming and going, and all were welcomed."

Want to impact your youth or family next summer? Join us!

2018 DATES: (1) JUNE 24-29, (2) JULY 8-13, (3) JULY 15-20,

(4) JULY 29-AUGUST 3, (5) AUGUST 5-10 (FAMILY TRIP WEEK).

► Contact Paul for more info: paul@tbpm.org



Clockwise from Top: (1) Grace Chapel Middle School Ministries; 5 New England churches joined us in 2017, (2) Painting a neighbor's porch, (3) Morning devotions at a local park, (4) Dinner at a local Vietnamese restaurant, (5) Evening simulation game called Poverty Simulation, (6) Relocating garden beds for a neighbor.

Ways You Can Pray For The Boston Project

Finances Please Pray

PRAISE GOD for Paulea joining the team, new teens coming to our Real Life Bible study, Aletheia Church volunteers, professional trainings for staff, an impactful Summer Missions Program, donated vehicle for Directors Paul & Glenna, Chris & Mary's engagement, and for YOU - our encouragers and supporters!

YOUTH AMBASSADORS. Pray as we select our 2017-18 team (10-12 teenagers), and for their growth and development as young civic leaders. Many of these youth are also part of our spiritual growth programs.

LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS. Pray for us as we connect with the pastors and churches in our 13-street area. We hope to learn more about their passion for the neighborhood and ways we can work together.

FINANCIAL PROVISION. We are thankful for our new monthly financial partners. Our 2017-18 budget (Sept-Aug) is \$488,400. Two-thirds of our funding (\$300,000) comes from individuals and churches.

We invite you to make a gift or become a monthly partner today to continue God's great work!

You can donate online at www.tbpm.org/donate or by check/money order in the enclosed envelope.



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