AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Life Sessions are a time when the Gospel of Christ is shared in innovative ways. It gives The House DC an opportunity to present Biblical principles to the youth in a way that touches their life. Spiritual Life Director, Jarmone Davis presented a Life Session titled “Gratitude Attitude”. The focus was to teach the principle of gratitude by using the parable of the 10 lepers in the Gospel of Luke.

Jarmone opened the session with the images of expensive items that cost almost nothing to make. He wanted our youth to understand the value of items they spend their money on, as opposed to the priceless things they receive at The House DC. He then posed the question, “How do you pay for something that is free?” The answer was by showing gratitude. The parable in Luke 17:11-19 tells a story of 10 men plagued with leprosy who met Jesus as he passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. After meeting Jesus the men were healed of their infirmity. It cost them nothing; their healing was free and also priceless. However, only one had the right attitude and returned to say thank you. Jarmone explained that there are some things in life that we can never pay for, and drew a parallel between the service and care the youth receive when they enter The House.

“A lot of work goes into maintaining a safe haven, and showing gratitude is the currency of priceless gifts,” says Jarmone.
MAKING DISCIPLES

The House continues to encourage our youth to seek and live for God. We know that not graduating from high school and/or not being able to get a job is a recipe for poverty and a very difficult life. Those are not good things. But as the Scripture says in Mark 8:36, “what does it profit you to gain the world, but lose your soul.”

Our prayer for our youth and community is that they have, and, experience a true relationship with Jesus. That’s why when youth want to go even further by learning more about Christ and how to live, we are excited. This year, we have a few students that want more. Spiritual Life Director, Jarmone Davis disciples this group weekly and they spend time in the Word of God learning truths that will continue to transform their lives. We don’t know what the challenges will be for these young disciples, but we do know that they WILL have a future and hope.

A SAFE OUTLET

What’s so special about music? Something happens to us when we hear our favorite song. The sound, the beat, and the words speak in a way that moves us all. The studio is a very important part of the after school program. The House uses the studio to provide a canvas for the youth to paint a picture of how they see life and their experiences. Music Director, Chris Chiles stated “that the spiritual impact of the studio is that it shows us that the thoughts and feelings of our teens is much darker than many know. It offers a safe outlet to express their pain. Knowing where our youth are emotionally and mentally allows us to design programs and activities that speak to their life and experiences”.

Chris Chiles with House student in recording studio
A CHANGED LIFE

Most of us have heard the saying “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” This couldn’t be further from the truth. In fact the Bible says in Proverbs 18:21: The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Our students often experience words of death, like “you will never be anything, I hope you die, I wish you were never born, you will be just like your father, you are ugly, nobody will ever love you,” and more, says Andrea Counts, Executive Director of Youth & Family Outreach. At The House we speak life, love, and hope into our students lives, and our May retreat was a great example of that. House staff, LaBaron Houston delivered a powerful message on the power of words that changed the way “Taye” felt about God! She went from being confused and not wanting a relationship with God to breaking down in tears asking for prayer and wanting to hear more of God’s love, caring affirmations, and His sweet promises to His children! “I want to be His child,” she stated, and through accepting Christ she is!

A LOW PRIORITY FOR LOCAL POLICE

The House DC is located in Anacostia, the heart of Southeast Washington D.C. Crime and violence are well known characteristics of the area. The District of Columbia is also known for having developed the genre of music known as Go-go. Over the years, youth Go-go events have had a history of violence. The House strategically seeks to find innovate ways to connect with youth, and uses Go-go as a way to reach youth that seem unreachable.

During these events, The House has always had security and the presence of the Metropolitan Police Department to ensure crowd control and no acts of violence occur. Staff will typically walk with youth to the bus stop after the event, and remain a vigilant clear presence after each event. The great news is that since The House has hosted Go-go’s, there have been 0 (zero) violent incidents.

At our most recent event, we did not have the presence of our local law enforcement as usual. The police explained that we were a LOW PRIORITY. The officer explained further that it was noted that the events The House DC hosts are always non-violent, and commended us on a job well done. We praise God for protecting The House, and are humbled that our impact continues to be appreciated and noticed in the community. We may be a LOW PRIORITY, but our commitment to Jesus is a HIGH PRIORITY!

CURRENT NEEDS

- Carpet for 3,000 sq. ft.
- Summer bus transportation for 55
- 2 New AC Units for Main Building
SAVE THE DATE

FAITH DAY
AUGUST 27, 2016

Join us in celebrating faith and Nationals Baseball with Faith & Family Night at Nationals Park on Saturday, August 27 as the Washington Nationals take on the Colorado Rockies at 1:05 p.m. For every ticket purchased through this link only, a donation of $5.00 will be made to The House DC: nationals.com/faith

Stay after the game for a special presentation of player testimonials and a LIVE concert, featuring local area choirs! Call to find out how your choir can perform on the field! For more information or to save fees on a purchase of 13 or more tickets, please contact Seth Puglio at 202.640.7687 or seth.puglio@nationals.com.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Life Skills Education Center is starting a class on Conflict Resolution this summer. The youth we serve have a culturally based way of handling conflict. Growing up in an area where you act conflict out in violent ways conditions our youth to handle all areas of their lives that way. Not having the social skills to properly manage anger during a conflict is a struggle that many face every day. “It is important for our young people to know how to handle conflict, as well as in the workplace” says Jonathan Harris, Executive Director of the Life Skills Education Center. We want to equip our young adults and community members with job readiness skills that help them to find employment, as well as life skills that shows them how to keep their job and have long-term career successes.

Jonathan Harris with House students

SAVE THE DATE

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
October 6, 2016
Contact Ed Tarbutton
golf@thehousedc.org

thehousedc.org