

Crossroads Chronicles

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2916-18 No 6th St. Philadelphia, PA 19133

www.crossroadshilly.org

Easter, Springtime, and New Beginnings

From the Director's Desk, Rev. Juan Marrero, M.Div.

Warm greetings in the name of our Risen Lord as we celebrate Easter and new beginnings!

We welcome spring in Fairhill—trees are green, bushes blossom, and flowers are blooming on people's porches. But at Crossroads, seeing the new beginnings of people's lives transformed from death to life is what gives us the hope and strength to continue. Thanks be to God!

We are blessed to have two new board members: Ed Jackson, a deacon at Christ Centered Church, and Alicia Alderfer from Indian Valley Mennonite Church. They bring new insights, energy and skills to us.

Ed Jackson is an old friend from the 'hood. I see evidence of him dying to self and rising to newness of life through the power of Christ. It is great to have a brother in the Lord who was also a brother from the streets. As a board member he will bring special gifts and insight to us.

We invited Ed to speak for himself about his decision to join our board in spite of a busy schedule with KB Construction and Deacon of Christ Centered Church.

Also, on the back are our 2018 financials.

Neighbors in the Fairhill are blessed to have faithful supporters like you who make it possible to minister to their needs and their hopes.

Your servant in Christ,
Juan



Director Juan Marrero and Board Member, Ed Jackson

“CROSSROADS TOUCHED ME AT CRITICAL TIMES IN MY LIFE,” Board member Ed Jackson

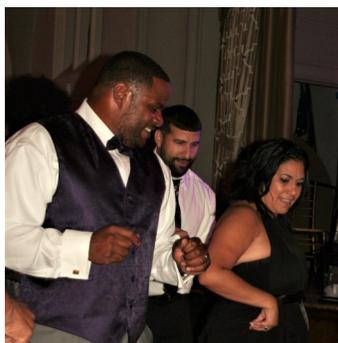
I agreed to serve on the board because Crossroads has been important in my own life. As a child, it was a safe haven from the street where I could spend time with kids without any violence. At Crossroads we found people who cared about us and our wellbeing.

I remember “B.J.” an African American youth leader who would meet us on the corners and encourage us to get off the street. He challenged us to do something positive, but without getting down on us. At Crossroads he would lead us in devotions and play basketball or other games with us. B.J. challenged our young minds to something appropriate for our age rather than following bad role models on the street corners.

Going to Camp Men-O-Lan was the first time out of the city for me. It was weird!. I had never been away from my mother for so long, but she was happy that I was out of the city for a week in a safe caring environment. At camp I found a sense of peace and safety though I did wonder what was out there in the dark!

I loved swimming in the pool and roasting marshmallows in the camp fire. Devotions around the campfire touched me: they were simple and focused on Jesus.

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Juan & Sandra join Ed to celebrate his August 2017 wedding

You have no idea how important it was for me to meet Juan and see someone from the 'hood doing the Lord's work! -Ed Jackson

As young men, Juan and I both got involved in selling drugs. It was normal. And it got us into trouble with the law. When I got out of prison, I ran into Juan in the neighborhood. I learned he was Associate Pastor at Second Mennonite and went there on Easter Sunday. Juan offered me a place to stay at Crossroads and a job doing maintenance, and he asked me to serve as a youth leader.

Juan adds, "Even when we were in the "street hustle," I saw that Ed had a good heart and would never hurt anyone. So I trusted that Ed could help Crossroads with upkeep and eventually as a youth leader."

You have no idea how important it was for me to meet Juan and see that someone from the 'hood had turned his life around and was doing the Lord's work! It was such an encouragement.

So, I am pleased to serve on Crossroads' board. It was important in my childhood years and in turning my life around to serve the Lord. Crossroads also connected me

with Christ Centered Church and with Kingdom Builders Construction where I am now Construction Manager.

Crossroads serves Fairhill neighbors as a safe and trusted place for youth and as a resource for senior citizens to put food on the table.

I would like to see Crossroads thrive and grow. Some of my ideas are: having sports teams compete with other youth centers, organizing a dance contest, having talent shows, teaching cheerleading to girls, and perhaps even helping people with job readiness and job placements.

Keep us in your prayers!

- Ed Jackson



Ed and Tenena Jackson cut their wedding cake, Aug 15, 2017



"THE EASTER TEAM:"

Juan & Sandra and Marjorie & Alex Kuilan packed nearly 300 food boxes and distributed them the Saturday before Easter.

"We gave them to neighbors on the block," reports Juan, "then we loaded up Al's pickup and drove up and down the streets of Fairhill. As we handed out the boxes, we told them who we were and wished them a blessed Easter. One young mother showed up at church the next Sunday and asked to be baptized. We were happy to give about 30 boxes to Second Mennonite, too, for them to bless their members and friends. One of my seminary friends provided chickens and other groceries for the boxes."

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2018

For 2018, our cash expenditures were about \$135,000. If we include in-kind contributions, however, we managed about \$265,000. This includes monthly senior citizen food boxes from Philabundance and also the salary and benefits for our prison Chaplain Ron Muse. They total about \$130,000. Below is a report on our programs which includes both cash and in-kind contributions.

	Amount	%
Administration	31,439	11.9%
Food ministry	87,244	32.9%
Youth ministry	53,241	20.1%
Prison ministry	69,378	26.2%
Summer camp	16,843	6.4%
Building rehab	6,800	2.6%
	<u>\$ 264,945</u>	
Cash expenditures	\$ 134,945	

Income, cash only, without in-kind donations

Board Members	10,850	8.5%
Congregations	82,084	64.2%
Individuals	31,469	24.6%
Organizations	3,385	2.7%
	<u>\$ 127,788</u>	