



ASLAN Youth Ministries

changing the world, one child at a time...



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“Where there is despair, may we bring hope.”

Saint Francis of Assisi

I love fall! I love the changing color of the trees. I love the cool crisp nights. Most of all, I love the start of Aslan's fall programs! I'm especially excited this year because I'm taking a more active role in our Long Branch programs. Any time I get the opportunity to work directly with the Aslan students rejuvenates me and fills me with hope.

One recent example of the rejuvenating power of working with the Aslan students occurred the other day after one of our Right Choices Life Skills classes. As the kids were heading out to the bus, Josh—a new Aslan student—walked up to me and said, “Mr. Doug, thank you so

much!” When I asked him why he was thanking me, he said he was so grateful for what Aslan was doing and that he was glad to be part of it. He continued filing out with the rest of the students and then paused at the entrance to the bus. Turning back to me he said, “I wish we had Aslan every day!” and then he disappeared onto the bus.

I'm always struck by the reality that kids like Josh and so many of the other Aslan students we work with *crave* the love and acceptance our staff and volunteers offer them. I don't know Josh's story yet, but if he's like some of the other Aslan kids in our programs, he's growing up

in a rough and tumble world and trying to figure out the best way to survive in it.

This is exactly why Aslan is so critical. We provide a spiritual, physical, and emotional space for kids like Josh to come in off the streets and out of the whirlwind of pain, brokenness, and isolation that so many kids experience today.

Working directly with the Aslan kids rejuvenates me and fills me with hope. I get to witness firsthand the beautiful power of relationships as kids like Josh excitedly await the next Aslan class.

~ Doug

Thanks to **Jack Buckman, Jeff Wyrwa**, and the entire **Buckman, Buckman & Reid** office for making this year's Jack Reid Memorial Golf Outing our most successful golf outing ever! We want to especially thank **Quinn and Lisa McKean** for generously supporting the work of Aslan by donating back their 50/50 winnings!

Beauty and the BEACH

Ladies, join us Saturday November 13 at 9 AM in Long Branch for Aslan’s second annual Beauty and the Beach Run™! This women’s only event is a beautiful 5-mile run/walk along the boardwalk, with all proceeds benefiting Aslan! Not a runner? That’s OK! Tell your friends and family and encourage them to sign up! Go to the events page on our website to learn more: www.aslanyouth.org/calendar



Aslan students who volunteered at last year’s Beauty and the Beach Run



Aslan students distributing hygiene kits!

This past summer, a group of Aslan students traveled to Haiti to run a day camp for close to 200 Haitian youth. At the end of camp, the Aslan students distributed hygiene kits to each

camper. The kits included much-

needed basic hygiene supplies like antibiotic ointments, Band-aids, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and combs. Thanks to the following churches for supplying these wonderful gifts: **Hope Presbyterian, Tower Hill Church, Grace Christian Church, First Baptist Church of Red Bank, Middletown United Methodist Church, Tinton Falls Reformed Church, and Community Baptist Church of Neptune.** Because of your generosity we distributed 190 hygiene kits!!

Recently a group of wonderful volunteers from Tower Hill Church spent their Saturday morning in service to one of our Aslan volunteers.



Miss Bev with the group of volunteers from Tower Hill

Miss Bev, a long time member of the Aslan family, has been struggling for years to repair and update her home. Without any money and unable to get a loan, Miss Bev’s daughter cashed in part of her retirement to help repair and update Miss Bev’s dilapidated kitchen and two bathrooms. The team from Tower Hill put the finishing touches on Miss Bev’s house by painting the living room, dining room, hallway, and stairwell—literally transforming her home! Thank you Tower Hill for blessing this cherished Aslan volunteer!!