

# Aslan Youth Ministries



## Christmas Update 2012



## *Superstorm Sandy*

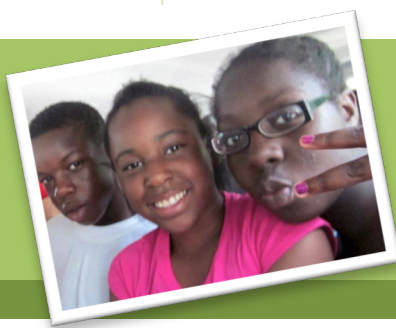
When a hurricane, wrapped in a Nor'easter hits New Jersey they call it a "Superstorm." The ripple effects of this monster will mean ongoing efforts to return to "normal." Our families at Aslan have lost jobs, cars, paychecks, food, and homes along with some who have lost "all." The home pictured below is on a street we serve. Notice the piles of trash as they clean out. This was taken almost a month after the storm.

The outpouring of love to our families and organization has been nothing short of miraculous. Long time donors have stepped up in creative ways. The new friends we have made in this tragedy have astounded us. Churches, schools and individuals from literally all over the country have pulled together to bring Christmas presents, hands to serve, coats, clothes, cold-medicine and the mercy of Jesus himself. We have come to truly see the body of Christ working together. Thank you is not nearly enough. Please remember us as we continue to do what Aslan does - journey in the lives we serve.

## *Programs Galore!*

If you ask any child or alumni of Aslan one thing that "represents" who we are, it would be the "Big Blue Bus" that comes to get them each week. It is not merely a symbol of transportation, or of programming, but of relationships built year round.

As the summer heat has waned we move from the daily camps to "Bible Class" and Tutoring. Our innovative approach to both is what aids in the permanent change we seek in our student's hearts and minds. "Bible Class" is all about showing students how to grow in Christ. A relationship-driven approach means that all we offer is merely a catalyst to help students understand what it means to belong to Jesus. In tutoring, each student has one-on-one attention. Our hope is not merely to offer homework aid, but to give students a boost into a love of learning. One 12-year-old boy told us recently, "I used to think the work I did here (at tutoring) was boring, but then I started to do better in school, and that changed everything." We know it isn't just about what we do, but the personalized approach that really makes the difference.





## Aslan Is On The Move

As we finish 2012 “Jersey Strong” we look with expectancy to 2013 and beyond.

### Our Core Values

(Who We Are and How We Program)

#### **Relationally- Driven:**

All that we do is about pursuing relationships with students and families above all else.

**Integrity:** We commit to be a people who operate in integrity in all we do and present.

**Servant-Leaders:** We lead through our service to each other and all of Aslan

**Christ- Centered:** Christ is the center of our ministry, our vision and all we are at Aslan

### *What to Expect:*

At Aslan we are working hard to end 2012 well. Through God’s love it is our desire to affect permanent change in the hearts and minds of at-risk youth in America and Haiti.

As we look to 2013 our goal is to see more youth impacted than ever before. In order to accomplish this we began by simply listening to our families, volunteers, partners and donors, asking two questions, “What do we do well?” followed by,

“What can we improve?” The feedback has been wonderful. Resoundingly our top strength is the relationally driven focus in our programming that creates transformation in the lives we touch, and this will continue to be our trademark. However, we have also heard we need to communicate better with all those that love us. All of the responses have been invaluable as we develop a strategic plan to move Aslan forward.

God’s love affects permanent change in the hearts and minds of at-risk youth in America and Haiti.

Whenever we encounter an Aslan alumni the story is always unequivocally the same. This ministry aided in a changed life. Our objective is to hear these stories for decades to come. We know that this is done by “planning our work and working our plan” as they say.

Everything is doused in prayer as we seek Christ’s guidance.

Look to hear from us more often in the coming year, consistently and personally in a variety of ways. You will see us offering more to all we serve and we can’t wait to share it with you!

