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Mission

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries seeks to Revitalize, Revive, and Revolutionize the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx and beyond by enabling individuals to develop physically, mentally (revitalization), emotionally, spiritually, and socially (revival) so that they may become servant-leaders within their families, community, and beyond (revolution).

Vision

Develop a community of revolutionized revolutionaries committed to the holistic development of the Mott Haven community and society while providing a place of training and personal development in the five holistic areas of growth.

Values

- Gospel
 - All need salvation through Jesus Christ
 - Unconditional Love
 - Balance of grace and discipline
- Worship
 - Glorifying God in all that is said and done
 - Excellence through preparation and evaluation
 - Personal Evangelism
- Community
 - Family
 - Respect
 - Respect authority: Follow instructions the first time they are given.
 - Respect others: Treat others the way you want to be treated.
 - Respect yourself: Do the best you can.
 - Respect God: Participate in prayer and Bible study.
 - Community Collaboration
 - Community Transformation
- Ministry
 - Serving the holistic needs of individuals
 - Struggle provides opportunity
 - Life improvement through application of Biblical principles

Strategy

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries is part of the Graffiti Network of ministries and churches. Graffiti Community Ministries has empowered children, youth, and adults on the Lower East Side of Manhattan for over forty years. The Graffiti Network describes their model of community transformation as *Upside Down*. This upside-down strategy begins with ministry—meeting the needs of a community. Ministry leads to faith. Faith leads to the growth of the church. The church at work in the community leads to transformation. For more information regarding this upside-down approach visit upsidedownlife.org

History

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries implemented this upside-down approach in the Mott Haven community of the South Bronx in August 2005. Initially meeting the needs of children, Graffiti 2 has since expanded its efforts to the whole family—children, teens, young adults, and adults. As a result of this ministry-first approach, a new church was planted in September 2008. That church has since formally constituted as Graffiti 2 Baptist Church.

Our Community

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries is located in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx in New York City. Mott Haven has a rich history. Consider these interesting facts:

- Mott Haven was originally the plantation home of Gouverneur Morris (penman of the preamble to the Constitution).
- The U.S. Capitol dome was cast at the Janes and Kirkland foundry near 3rd Avenue and 149th Street.
- The Piccirilli family's studio was located at 142nd Street and Willis Avenue. Among the notable works they carved were the lions for the New York Public Library and the iconic sculpture of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

Beginning in the 1900s, Mott haven became a home for new immigrants: German, Irish, Jewish, Puerto Rican, and now Mexican. At one time Mott Haven was a neighborhood of affluence. Alexander Avenue was nicknamed "Doctor's Row," and Willis Avenue was called the "Irish Fifth Avenue." The beautiful brownstones from this era still remain.

Since the 1970s Mott Haven has been identified as a community of need. Communities of need are areas of our cities and towns where people are particularly vulnerable to damaging outcomes. Research tells us that multiple risk factors have a cumulative effect on well-being. One risk has a negligible effect on well-being. Two or three risks increase the chance of damaging outcomes by four. Four or more risks increase the chance of damaging outcomes by ten (Citizens Committee for Children of New York, Keeping Track 2013).

Mott Haven's risk factors include education, safety, family, health, and environment. In the midst of these risk factors, 90,000 people (30,000 under the age of eighteen), call Mott Haven home. These individuals and families are the greatest asset to the community.

Neighborhood Data

Population: 86,457

% Under the age of 18: 33%

Children Per Square Mile: 10,420

% Families at not at Self-Sufficiency Standard: 72.1%

% Children born into poor families: 80.6%

Reported Violent Felonies: 970

Estimated Unmet Need for Out of School Time Services: 7,193

% Births to Teen Mothers: 16%

Mott Haven has consistently been ranked the “Worst Neighborhood in the City to Raise Kids”

Our Programs

Children and Family Programs

- School Year
 - After-School Program: Graffiti 2 provides quality, safe, and fun after-school programming to the children of Mott Haven. Believing in the priceless value and unimaginable potential of each child, Graffiti 2 provides activities for children that will revitalize (build their minds and bodies), revive (strengthen their character, spirit, and personality) and revolutionize their lives, families, and community.
 - Parents Rock: Valuing family, Graffiti 2 works alongside parents to accomplish our mission within the community. Every parent with a child in the after-school program is required to make an investment—either by volunteering one day a week or by providing snacks. Each day children benefit from parents assisting with homework and activities. These parents are taking a firsthand role in revitalizing, reviving, and revolutionizing themselves, their children, and their community.
- Summer Programs
 - Summer Sports Camps: Graffiti 2 uses sports to build children and youth not just physically but mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually as well. Throughout the summer Graffiti 2 coordinates with volunteers from across the country to provide basketball, football, cheerleading, tennis, soccer and baseball camps to more than one hundred children in the Mott Haven community. Children not only learn valuable skills for playing the sports but are each equipped with the resources to continue play after camp is complete (i.e. basketballs, footballs, tennis racquets).
 - Summer Kids: For a four-week period each summer, Graffiti 2 provides Mott Haven children (1st–5th grade) an opportunity to broaden their horizons and experience new endeavors. Students are guided by volunteers and professionals in opportunities to enrich their life.
 - Summer Tots: For a four-week period each summer, Graffiti 2 provides Mott Haven preschool children (4–5-year-olds) fun activities designed for strengthening them physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Youth Programs

- G.S.A.L.T. (Graffiti Serving and Leading Teenagers): In a neighborhood with more than 10,000 students between the ages of 12 and 17 (Citizen’s Committee for Children of New York), Graffiti 2 is revitalizing, reviving, and revolutionizing the lives of teenagers. G.S.A.L.T. strengthens teens physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually by providing a nurturing environment for teenagers to grow in responsibility, develop their leadership skills, nourish healthy peer relationships, and be accountable in school and life. Graffiti 2 encourages every teen to lead by serving. G.S.A.L.T. students mentor children in the after-school program and help with service projects around the community. Inspired by Matthew 5:13, which says, “You are the salt of the earth,” Graffiti 2 believes just like a little salt can change food in a big way, these teens are salt in Mott Haven—revolutionizing their community.
- G.S.A.L.T. Employment Program: The G.S.A.L.T. Employment Program provides a part-time job to students over the age of sixteen who have participated in the G.S.A.L.T. program for two years. G.S.A.L.T. employee positions are funded by pairing students with Sunday School classes, small groups, or churches. These groups send in financial support to cover the employment of the student. The student corresponds with these groups by sending letters, videos, and pictures.

Graffiti 2 Works

- Graffiti 2 Works coaches adults in developing the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual skills necessary to become the best they are capable of becoming.
 - Program Components
 - Life Skills: Use the Holistic Hardware curriculum to teach the values that are the foundation for a successful life.
 - Bible Study: Communicate God’s plan for a person’s life.
 - Mentoring: Connect individuals with life, academic, and career mentors.
 - Education Skills: Provide coaching for the high school equivalency diploma, ESL, and citizenship.
 - Career Skills: Provide specific training for specific careers.
 - Career Connections: Connect individuals with career opportunities.
 - Job Incentive: Provide a temporary job to individuals to incentivize their participation and completion.
 - National Accreditation: Graffiti 2 is an accredited Christian Women/Men Job Corps site. Christian Women’s Job Corps[®] and Christian Men’s Job Corps[®] seek to equip women and men, in a Christian context, for life and employment.
 - Micro-Enterprise Affiliation: Graffiti 2’s artisan group produces quilted goods for the marketplace. These goods can be purchased through WorldCrafts. WorldCrafts mission is to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world.

Community Events

Graffiti 2 serves the Mott Haven community by collaborating with other community partners and hosting special events.

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Celebrating Easter in a BIG WAY! Thousands of children and parents hunt for eggs, play games, enjoy concessions, and hear a message of God's special love for them.
- **School Supply Sale:** In September, at the beginning of the school year, school supplies are sold at a discounted price to assist families in providing school supplies for their children. School supplies are donated by individuals and groups from across the country.
- **Thanksgiving Bags:** Every person has a reason to thank God. Graffiti 2 is grateful for our neighbors in Mott Haven. To show thanks Graffiti 2 works with volunteers from across the neighborhood and country to assemble and distributes bag stocked with groceries. Each bag has all the items necessary to prepare a Thanksgiving feast.
- **Thanksgiving Community Dinner:** Working with community partners and volunteers, Graffiti 2 hosts a community Thanksgiving dinner for the Mott Haven neighborhood.
- **His Toy Store:** Graffiti 2 connects with families facing tough circumstances through His Toy Store. In collaboration with other community partners, Graffiti 2 provides invited families an opportunity to shop for free gifts for their children.
- **Christmas Party:** Working with a neighborhood homeless shelter for families, Graffiti 2 coordinates a Christmas party. Churches and individuals donate shoe-box gifts that are distributed to the children and teens in attendance at this party. The party also includes games, crafts, snacks, and a reading of the Christmas story.

Partnerships

Graffiti 2 develops mutually beneficial, kingdom-building partnerships with churches and organizations across the city and country. Partnerships involve praying, giving, going, and investing.

Pray

- Pray for Graffiti 2's mission:
 - Revitalize—pray for the physical and mental revitalization of the Mott Haven Community.
 - Revive—pray for the emotional, social and spiritual revival of the Mott Haven Community.
 - Revolutionize—pray for God to revolutionize lives through the power of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for a neighborhood with many risk factors that increase the chance of damaging outcomes.
- Pray for wisdom and provision for Graffiti 2's eight full-time staff missionaries
- Pray for the relationship between Graffiti 2 and our landlord (Congregation of Yahweh).
- Pray for the disciples of Graffiti 2 Baptist Church.
- Subscribe to Graffiti 2's Newsletter by sending an e-mail request to graffiti2ministries@gmail.com.
- Subscribe to Graffiti 2's e-mail list by entering your information on the bottom left of our website.
- Visit Graffiti 2's website at www.graffiti2ministries.org and keep up with the most recent happenings, prayer concerns and even virtually prayer walk the Mott Haven community.

Give

Consider how your church might give to support the work of God in the Mott Haven Community.

- Collect Materials
 - Toiletry Kits - Plastic bags filled with Shampoo, Soap, Washcloth, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Chapstick, Floss, Candy (candy bar--no hard candy), Coloring Books, small toy
 - Christmas Shoebox Gifts
 - Winter Apparel—hats, scarves, gloves, coats (children and teens)
 - Alarm Clocks
- Meet a Need from the Wish-list
 - Graffiti 2 has created a wish list of items we would like to have, but aren't in our regular budget.
 - Portable stage
 - Laminator
 - Sound equipment
 - Scanner
 - Church Bus
 - Professional, Portable Puppet Stage
- Give Skills
 - Graffiti 2 frequently needs the skills of the following professions
 - Accounting
 - Construction
 - Fundraising
- Support Financially—Engage your church to budget a monthly, quarterly or yearly contribution to Graffiti 2. A ministry budget is available upon request. Graffiti 2 costs include:
 - Rent
 - Payroll for 7 full-time staff missionaries
 - Executive Director
 - Assistant Director
 - Director of Children's Ministries
 - Director of Youth Ministries
 - Graffiti 2 Works Director
 - Office Manager
 - Facility and Resource Manager
 - Partnership Coordinator
 - Direct Program Expenses for children, teens and adults
 - Hunger related expenses (providing food to the community)
 - Special Events
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas
 - Easter
- Host a fundraiser for Graffiti 2
 - VBS Missions Offering
 - Special Love Offering
 - Car Wash
 - Bake Sale
 - Candy Sales

Go

- Send Mission Teams
 - 8-12 Member Teams
 - Graffiti 2 focuses on developing partnerships not just one time mission experiences. Every mission team is encouraged to take ownership of some aspect of ministry during the week of their service.
 - Housing is available through Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.
(Graffiti 2 requires mission team members to be high school graduates (in age) and over)
- Send Short-Term Summer/Semester Missionaries to participate in Upside Down Missionary Training
 - Upside-Down Missionary Training: Upside-down missionaries spend a summer or semester receiving training in upside-down principles, learning experientially within the Graffiti Network, and participating in an upside-down small group for accountability, fellowship, and discipleship.
- Send Long-Term Missionaries to participate in Upside Down Leadership Training
 - Upside-Down Leadership Training: Upside-down leadership training is a four-year program that results in participants' beginning new work in their own called communities of need.

Investment

Graffiti 2 believes that every partnership has a mutual benefit. Graffiti 2 can invest in your church in the following ways:

- Upside-Down Life Training: Upside-down life training is a one- to-three day conference that exposes individuals to upside-down principles and equips them with tools to apply those principles in their own lives and communities.
- Upside-Down Mission Training: Upside-down mission-training participants spend a week ministering and learning from experienced practitioners within the Graffiti Network. Participants receive training in upside-down principles, learn experientially within the Graffiti Network, and receive follow-up coaching to assist in the implementation of these principles within their own communities of need.
- Send a staff member to speak at your church
- Assist your church in developing a vision and strategy for community ministry.
- Send a student mission team to work in your community
- Provide meaningful ministry opportunities to mission teams that your church sends to Graffiti 2. Graffiti 2 is committed to not only providing a week of service with us, but also instilling in mission teams the vision to continue ministry in their own neighborhoods.
- Provide consistent communication through e-mail newsletters and mail-outs