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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, socially, and (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. Graffiti 2 got its start in the community center of the Garifuna Evangelical Church; this space was about the size of a living room. After six years of growing in this location, Graffiti 2 moved three blocks east to a historic synagogue that was owned by a Christian church called Congregation of Yahweh. In September 2017, Graffiti 2 moved another half-block to its current location. Graffiti 2 partners with Iglesia Evangelical Independiente Gerizim to share space in a century-and-a-half old church building. This relationship and building is a place for Graffiti 2 to put down roots and call home.

Our Community

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries is located in the Mott Haven neighborhood 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



G2Kids

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 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.



G.S.A.L.T.

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.



G2 Interns

Graffiti 2 believes people are our greatest resource. Our organization’s vision statement states our goal: to develop “revolutionized revolutionaries”—changed people that work to change others.

The Graffiti 2 Internship Program utilizes young adults in the community who are making positive, forward movement in their life--either in high school, college, or vocational training. Graffiti 2 Interns have a high-level of leadership within the after-school program. They help teach behavior to students, assist with homework, and provide targeted tutoring to students in individualized or small-group settings.

Participation in the internship programs provides benefit to the intern as well. For their participation, Graffiti 2 Interns

- learn teaching skills
- grow physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually
- benefit from participating in a community of encouragement and accountability
- grow self-satisfaction from giving back to kids and teenagers within the Mott Haven community
- are eligible for incentives and rewards



Graffiti 2 Works

One in five young adults in Mott Haven are considered “idle.” They are not in school and are not employed. Additionally, 20 percent of adults seeking work are unemployed, and there are thousands of first-generation adult immigrants. Seeing not only the needs of our neighbors but their great potential, 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.

Graffiti 2 accomplishes this goal through a two-fold approach. First, Graffiti 2 offers jobs to qualified individuals through a growing micro-enterprise. Second, adults interested in pursuing personal growth and education can find resources and assistance through Graffiti 2’s Adult Learning Center.

Graffiti 2’s artisan group produces sewn goods for the marketplace. These goods can be purchased through WorldCrafts or through Graffiti 2’s online store. WorldCrafts' mission is to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses around the world.

Graffiti 2’s adult learning center provides opportunities for personal growth and education in the following areas:

- One-on-one tutoring in literacy, English, and math
- High School Equivalency Exam—assisted independent study
- Job Hunting—coaching adults in searching, applying, and interviewing for a job
- Group classes—Self-defense, Financial Literacy, Health and Nutrition, Art, Knitting, Reading

National Accreditation: Graffiti 2 is an accredited Christian Women 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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** Graffiti 2 hosts a basketball tournament for high school students and adults in our community the Saturday before Father's Day.



Graffiti 2 Baptist Church is a diverse body of believers in the South Bronx. With a myriad of backgrounds, we are united by our love for God, our neighborhood, and each other. Following Jesus has changed our lives. Our faith in Him has made us children of God. It has brought us together. It has made us family. We invite you to come and see for yourself! All of our gatherings are casual dress, come as you are.

Connect with us for any of the following:

- Worship Service: Sundays at 6:30 PM
- Bible Study: Wednesday at 6:30 PM
- Women on Mission: Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM
- Men's Breakfast: Second Saturday of each month at 10 AM

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 four full-time staff missionaries
- Pray for the ongoing repair and renovation of our building
- Pray for the disciples of Graffiti 2 Baptist Church.
- Subscribe to Graffiti 2's mailing list and/or e-newsletter by sending an e-mail request to info@graffiti2ministries.org
- 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 (more information available on our website)
 - Toiletry Kits
 - Christmas Shoebox Gifts
 - Winter Apparel—hats, scarves, gloves, coats (children and teens)
 - Gift cards
 - School supplies
 - Fabric for our artisans
- 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.
 - Sound equipment
 - Church Bus
- Give Skills
 - Graffiti 2 frequently needs the skills of the following professions
 - Accounting
 - Construction—currently we are renovating a 150 year old building!
 - Fundraising
 - Website
 - Video Production
- 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 4 full-time staff missionaries
 - Executive Director
 - Children's Director
 - Youth Director
 - Graffiti 2 Works Director
 - Graffiti 2 Internship Program
 - Graffiti 2 provides a paid internship for young adults age 16-24 from our community. These students assist with tutoring children and teens.
 - 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
 - 5-8 Member Teams (Graffiti 2 requires all volunteers who work with children or teens to be over the age of 18.)
 - 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 currently has a special need for construction teams to work on our 150-year-old building**
- Send Short-Term Summer/Semester Missionaries to participate in Upside Down Internship
 - Upside Down Interns 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. Visit www.upsidedownlife.org for more information.
- Send Long-Term Missionaries to serve in our community

Investment

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

- Upside Down Mission Experience: In the Upside Down Mission Experience 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. Visit www.upsidedownlife.org for more information.
- Upside Down Conferences: Upside Down Conferences are one- to-three day events that expose individuals to upside-down principles and equips them with tools to apply those principles in their own lives and communities. Partnering with Send Relief in 2018, Upside Down is offering Upside Down Training in conjunction with Send Relief Poverty Labs across the country. Visit www.upsidedownlife.org for more information.
- Send a staff member to speak at your church
- Assist your church in developing a vision and strategy for community ministry.
- Send a 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.