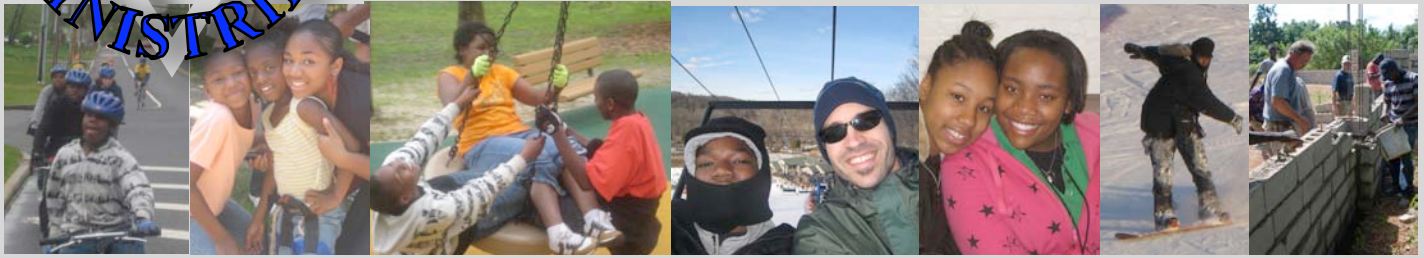




ASLAN Youth Ministries

P.O. Box 270 * Red Bank, NJ 07701 www.aslanyouth.org



May 2009

Dear Friends of Aslan,

A few days ago I received a wonderful email from Janet, a woman who tutored and mentored for Aslan several years ago. Her words were so powerful that I asked her permission to share them with you in this letter. To me, it shows the *Power of One* ~ the power of one individual to make such a lasting difference in the life of one Aslan child.

"Hi Craig,

I hope this email finds you well. I am glad to see your organization is still making a difference after so many years. You may remember me. My name is Janet Lee and I volunteered in your tutoring program back in the early 1990s and through Aslan, met a young girl named Evelyn.

I wanted to tell you what a wonderful experience it was meeting and tutoring Evelyn. Even though we stopped attending the Monday night tutoring meetings at the school, we saw each other every week. Sometimes Evelyn would spend the night and other times I took her to her orthodontist appointment. You were kind enough to introduce me to your friend Dr. Gary Cuzzo who got Evelyn started with her orthodontia care.

She is truly a success story from your program. She currently lives in North Carolina and has a terrific job and her own beautiful apartment. I have become a sort of other mother to her as her own mother has since passed away. I was the mother of the bride in her wedding. I've attached a photo.

Because of you, all this was possible and I wanted to thank you for everything you do with Aslan. It allowed me to form a relationship with a wonderful person who I would otherwise have never met.

I hope my story can inspire other volunteers to stick with the program. There were some rough times and I am thankful that I stayed with Evelyn instead of giving up.

Best regards,
Janet Lee"

What an absolutely wonderful testimony from Janet. The last words she wrote were particularly important. I'm sure there were so many difficult times that she could have and probably wanted to simply give up! The lives of the children Aslan reaches out to are so broken that they often push us away. They have faced so many seemingly

insurmountable obstacles from the time they were born, that they test us by doing everything they can to hurt back. It is only by continuing to receive our love that they eventually come to believe that they can trust it. As Paul wrote in Corinthians, "Faith, hope and love remain . . . but the greatest of these is love."

Janet could have given up. We remember how difficult Evelyn could be at times. She was a fighter from the time she was a young girl, and there were times when we almost hoped she wouldn't come! She was constantly getting in trouble with the other kids, and it would have been easy for us to just ask her not to come back and find another student to take her place.



Evelyn & Janet on Evelyn's recent visit to New York

There are so many times when people ask us, "How many children have been helped during Aslan's 35 years? How many lives have really been changed?" I always respond that we know for sure hundreds ~ even thousands ~ of children's lives have been changed for the better. Every child who passes through Aslan's doors is deeply impacted, and we can easily point to Chris (a leading Navy scientist) John (a world class systems engineer), Cheryl (an RN), Theresa (a math teacher) and so many more! Had Janet not taken the time to tell us Evelyn's story, however, we would not have known this troubled young girl would ever have grown up to be a happily married and successful woman.

In addition to the lives we know have been changed, there are literally hundreds of "Evelyns" out there whose lives will also never be the same because of Aslan Youth Ministries. And it could never have happened without wonderful volunteers like Janet and wonderful supporters like you! As Janet said, there was also the wonderful orthodontia care that Dr. Gary Cuzzo so graciously provided without cost to Evelyn! Lynn Ann, through tears in her eyes, recently said to me, "Craig wouldn't it be sad if the children currently in our programs were the last generation of Aslan kids?" It would be more than sad ~ it would be tragic. There is one way we all can be sure this won't happen, and that is for you to continue to give ~ and give generously ~ to support this work that we do. We need hundreds more volunteers like Janet and Gary, and we need hundreds more people who give money to keep our programs going. We know the economy is bad. We know times are tough. And we also know the Aslan cannot continue to help children like Evelyn find hope, unless you dig deep to help us. Please don't forget us and how important what we do truly is.



Evelyn and Janet at Evelyn's wedding

Most sincerely,

Craig

Craig Bogard

P.S. God bless you, Janet, for all your hard work and for not giving up! God bless you also, Evelyn, for believing that with God's help you could find the happiness that you've found.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL
PLEASE FILL OUT THE RESPONSE CARD AND MAIL IT BACK!



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*