

2012 Student of the Year  
Thomas August Ross III



Scholarship Recipient  
Rianna Minter



Jubilee Ringer Graduate 2012  
Autumn Van Brown



The girl sitting at the piano wore all black. Her jet black and burgundy hair at the time matched the soft movement of the piano. Her hands moved quickly and majestically across the keys as her song came to a stop. Slowly and steadily, the girl turned and raised her body out of the seat and began to bow. As the crowd cheered, she took her seat and began contemplating on the past that brought her to this very spot she calls..... happiness.

For this girl, music has always been the root of her happiness whether it was simply sitting down at the piano and writing a tune or listening to the soft sounds coming from her mp3 player. Music has helped her open her eyes to a new world of determination, discipline, and hope. With every practice came discipline. Discipline to finish that page, discipline to practice the song everyday and discipline to perform her two songs at the end of the year.

Before music, she was restless and angry, but after music, she became a more happy student in school and out of school. The question is, what will this girl do now that her Jubilee Ringers days have come to an end? What will her purpose in life be?

My name is Autumn VanBrown and I aspire to be a musician/actress and because of Ms. Rachel; not only has she taught me to cultivate myself as a leader but she also inspired the passion in my life for music. Most of all she has challenged me, in all I do, to make Christ the focus of my life for; only he can bring true happiness and fulfillment. - Autumn VanBrown

Autumn entered the program at age 12. She is Attending Camden County College for Drama and Music.

Jubilee Music Enrichment  
A NJ Nonprofit Corporation  
P. O. Box 1705  
Merchantville, NJ 08109



### Our Vision

(Where there is No Vision The People Perish)

That our sons may be as great plants in their youth;

That our daughters may be as corners columns carved in the likeness of a palace;

That our storehouses may be full overflowing with all kinds of goods upon goods;

That our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets;<sup>1</sup>

That our leaders be strong bearers of burdens;

That there be no breaking in, nor going out into captivity;

That there be no crying in our streets;

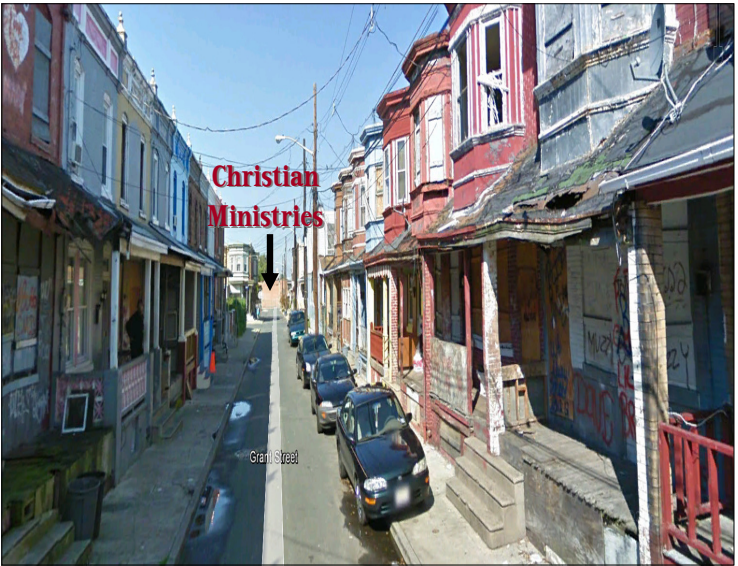
Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yes, happy is that people, whose God is Yahweh.<sup>2</sup>

Psalms 144:12-15

<sup>1</sup> Sheep provided for the livelihood and the health of families— food, milk, shelter, clothing)

<sup>2</sup> Jesus Christ—Yahweh in the flesh.

### The Current Condition



Grant Street

Walk out the door of Christian Ministries, look straight, and you confront Grant Street. Looking is one thing, waking down the street is another experience. Volunteers for Jubilee Music Enrichment went door to door handing out tracks and flyers announcing the programs. Although it was a sunny afternoon it was dark on Grant Street. Yes you could not only see, but feel the dark, dark world of sin.

Between dilapidated and falling houses women were idly sitting on an old dirty couch. Their beauty has been devoured by the

pleasures and pains of life. Older men standing behind a truck, with suspicious looks, were making a deal that was most likely illicit. A prostitute walked by laughing as she swung on the arm of a man whose strength has been snatched by drugs and alcohol. On the corner there is a house with a crumbled porch. R.I.P. was sprayed on boarded windows with bright red paint. A large poster with dried out leaves was erected on the side. The only orderly thing on the porch was a perfectly straight line of whiskey bottles. Here stands a memorial to a victim of the streets. In the midst of it all, the reality hits - children live here.

Camden is recognized as the poorest city in the Nation. So far this year there have been over 53 murders. This gives the city the highest murder rate in the country. Twenty-three of Camden's twenty-six schools are on the list of the State's 75 worst performing schools. The State of New Jersey reports Camden as the third highest municipality of substantiated child abuse cases. Seeing these conditions, many have cast the city off as being hopeless. For years, others have strategized and have tried to implement renaissance plans. Although there may be small pockets of rehabilitation, the general condition of Camden continues to spiral downward.

Reconciling our vision with the current condition seems to be an insurmountable task but, at Jubilee Music Enrichment we embrace hope with faith. The Bible says that if you have faith as the grain of a mustard seed you shall say to this mountain, (continued pg. 2)

### Jubilee Alumni Return & Perform



Julia Ross

Mary Baldwin College  
Music Education Major



Venise Hunter

Camden County College  
Nursing Major



Kristen Foster

Camden County College  
Biology Major

### Scenes from the Scholarship Banquet



Hassan - Piano Solo



Rianna & Jayla — Handbell Duet



Hassan  
Welcomes Our Guest



Autumn  
Bell Tree Solo



Gus - Singing His  
Original Song



Our Guest



Jubilee Ringers - Ringing Jazzy Praise

You Are Invited To Our  
Annual Christmas Concert & Buffet

Saturday, December 15

3:30 PM (Seating begins at 3:00 PM)

Christian Ministries, Inc. 814 N<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Camden, NJ

Freewill Donation



Cultivating Young Leaders Through The Discipline of Music Training



**Our Vision - The Present Condition** *(Continued from pg. 1)*

“move” and it shall move from there. Nothing shall be impossible for you (Matthew 17:20). Indeed, there are many mountains to move in Camden. Moving forward with our vision we realize that there is a need for the healing of families. Fortifying families is essential to obtain the best outcomes for the children in our programs and in the city of Camden. Generational depression is a big mountain to move. This challenge can be conquered through faith and the power of God. We invite you to share our vision and become partners in this work. We need prayer warriors, laborers and supporters. Please join us in faith, and let’s start moving mountains.

**This Is No Ordinary Music Program**



*Rianna Presenting in a Leadership Activity*



*Christine Practicing Piano at the After-School Program*

*Jubilee Ringers Practicing Ringing Techniques*

Every Saturday at 10:00 youth steam into the door excited to ring bells, learn the piano and earning points for learning music theory. There are several who may enter with a pout because their parent made them come. However, their parents, wisely, do not give into the grumbles. They realize their child is gaining a valuable experience that can be pivotal to success in life. In addition, the parents consider the cost of piano lessons and are happy to take advantage of a free program that offers so much more than music training.

Jubilee Music Enrichment is no ordinary music program. It is a program that endeavors not only to teach valuable music skills the youth can use throughout life but, it uses the discipline of music training to teach essential life skills that will propel youth to be leaders that effect positive change in their community.

Christine is a first year student who participates in the Saturday program and in the after-school program. Her eagerness to play beautiful classical music is displayed as she runs her fingers across the piano keys every time she passes a key-board. She soon realizes her desire will only be achieved through much discipline and persistence. She receives her first bell tree solo and after many attempts she finally plays the first few bars accurately. She proceeds to go to the next part of the song but is stopped and told to play the first measures over and over. Each time she is told to play again she has a questionable look on her face that says, why are you making me do this again. She is then asked if she hands her teacher the first draft of a writing assignments or if she reviews it to determine if she could express her subject better and thus receive a better grade. She gives the silent answer. Christine was challenged to pursue excellence in all areas of her life which only comes through the discipline of practice and persistence. After practice Christine is feeling good as she realizes what she has accomplished.

Each week youth participate in a leadership activity. For example, it is Rianna’s turn to present a short speech that she was to write at home and practice in front of a mirror. After her presentation she is critiqued by her peers. Sometimes they have very interesting ways of expressing their observations but their comments are always on point. Rianna’s presentation is also videoed so she can participate in self-evaluation. Rianna will have the opportunity to put into action the skills she learns when she performs in concerts.

Each session is ended with a prayer circle. Everyone joins hands, including teachers and parents, to pray. Prior to prayer student are given the opportunity to say a Bible verse from memory. Each week they are challenged to learn a new verse that has not been previously quoted. Each verse that is recited always gives simple advice for living. After the quoting of Bible verses students can make prayer requests. They often ask prayer for family members and to do well on test in school. Prayers have been answered. Through these experiences you can see why this is no ordinary music program.

**Jubilee Music Enrichment Seeks to Expand Its Ministry**



Riding through this Camden Neighborhood, I noticed the streets were filled with youth. I then looked to my right and saw a vacant building that formerly housed a community library. I got out of my car to take pictures. Shortly thereafter, several boys around the age of 12 rode up to me on their bikes. They excitedly asked, “lady are you going to buy that building?” They continued to tell me that they always went to the library when it was open. I asked them if they would like to learn music. They asked if I taught rap or drums. I told them we teach piano and handbells and chimes and we teach youth how to be leaders who do good things in their community. They never heard of handbells so, I began to describe what they were. They attentively listened and then responded, “Lady you should buy that building!”

The building pictured above is owned by the City of Camden and is scheduled for auction. It is in the center of an active neighborhood. The side of the building faces a row of houses and an apartment complex. Within two blocks there is a public school, a charter school and a parochial school. It is a harvest field for ministry. Could this be the home of the Jubilee Community Enrichment Center?

The Board of Jubilee Music Enrichment is seeking the Lord’s will about the prospect of expanding its ministry in this neighborhood. Please pray for us as we seek the Lord’s wisdom in entreating the City of Camden for this property and possibly the vacant home behind it. If it is the Lord’s will, please pray that the needed resources to obtain and rehabilitate the property be provided.

**Parent Corner**

My Godson Hassan Yates has been in the Jubilee Music Enrichment Program for about 7 months. My sister Venise previously participated in the program. I saw the benefits she received from the program so: I knew it was the pre-fect program for Hassan. The progress he has made during this short period of time is impressive. The discipline of learning music and mastering piano selections has allowed him to focus and channel his energy in a positive manner. The after school program, which he attends, provides additional training and attention. It reinforces what he learns on Saturdays. The skills he has learned through this program allowed him to play the piano for the youth choir accompanied by another youth on the drums and to perform in plays at church. It was wonderful to hear him sing a solo at the program’s annual scholarship banquet. Jubilee Music Enrichment has given Hassan the opportunity and the confidence to read out loud and to express himself through music and songs.

Kenise Hunter—Parent

**Contact Information**

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Email: [music4youth@hotmail.com](mailto:music4youth@hotmail.com)

**Our Needs**

Does your church have a set of handbells that are not being used and are sitting in a closet waiting to be rung? If so, the Jubilee Ringers can make good use of them. With the addition of a handbell tree and the significant increase in enrollment we can benefits from an extra set of bells.



We would like to connect twenty keyboards to computers and monitors. This is especially needed for music composition. The minds of our students are being stimulated as they learn to write original compositions.

**Contributions Can Be Made Payable to:**

**Jubilee Music Enrichment**  
**P. O. Box 1705**  
**Merchantville, NJ 08109**

All gifts are tax deductible