



Living Stones International

A Children and Family Outreach Ministry

NOVEMBER 2013



2013 Champions of Hope Award

What's the Champions of Hope Award?



As one of twenty nominees for the 2013 Champions of Hope Award, Living Stones is honored to accept this award for recognition as an "outstanding faith-based and community-based organization for their initiatives and innovations improving the outcomes for Florida's at-risk youth, children-in-care, and families-in-need."

The award was accepted on behalf of Living Stones by Pastor Gary and Elder Josephine Montgomery, founders. It was most appropriate for the Executive Director, Josephine, to make the following remarks that "*Living Stones is accepting this award on behalf of the children and families we serve. It is our passion working with these children and families that this award means so much to us.*"

The 4th Annual National Faith Symposium, "*Our Children, Our Future: Restoring Hope*" was held in Orlando, Florida co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Speakers included Coach Bobby Bowden, Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Harris Rosen, Reverend O. Jermaine Simmons, Sr., and Bob Williamson. It was the first time the Champions of Hope Award was presented by the Florida Faith and Community-Based Advisory Council.



1) We ask for your prayers.

Prayers do work and keep Living Stones in your daily prayer to continue our work with passion and not as a chore.

[Learn More](#)



2) We ask you to invest in children and families.

As an investment, your gifts are rebuilding, reconnecting, and restoring relationships.

[Learn More](#)



3) We ask for Y-O-U.

You are the difference in a child's life. Be a mentor or tutor today. You may be the only BIBLE someone reads by how you act towards them.

[Learn More](#)

Farm Share *

* Farm Share is a distribution network that supplies fresh fruits, vegetables, and surplus food to area food pantries, homeless shelters, and organizations.



(Pictured left to right: Jonn Darbysire, Dave Reynold-Farm Share, Representative Alan Williams, Pastor Gary Montgomery, Elder Josephine Montgomery, and Sedrick Swan-Walker Ford)

Just two weeks ago, Living Stones set up at 7:00 am Saturday November 2, 2013 to distribute food to the Bond Community at Walker Ford Community Center. Individuals were lined up as early as 5:30 am. A full tractor trailer was unloaded about 8:30 am. It took about four hours to unpack crates, bag, and hand out food. The result is that we distributed food to feed 1,012 individuals. Living Stones with Farm Share distributed 27,000 pounds of food.

Support Living Stones because:

- # of children serving = 60
- # of children served in after school program = 5
- # of volunteers = 25
- # of volunteer hours = 1,043 (2013)
- \$ value of volunteer hours = \$23,092.00
- 70% of children will follow their incarcerated parent to prison
- 60% of inmates in state prisons never have a visit
- Cost of father absences in Leon County = \$750,000,000

Support Living Stones because we do good work; and our work is necessary, click the **donate button** to assist us with investing in our future, restoring families, and providing children the opportunity for their success. . .



TESTIMONY:

Young men like A.J. makes our work worthwhile. As a 23 year old ex-offender his options were limited. What a testimony this young man has since coming to us. He moved to this area uncertain of a career path, but did have a desire for writing and journalism. Upon referral to Workforce Plus, A.J. took an assessment test .

Behold, A.J. was not only proficient in writing, but score high marks in math. So much so that Pastor took him under his wing to mentor him along with our FSU intern, Oceo Harris. Because of his scores, we encouraged him to look at the path of STEMS. He said he needed some time to think about it, but after reviewing his options, A.J. decided to move forward with mechanical engineering and robotics. He has been on the dean's list for three semesters. He was recruited to represent his school in Atlanta, which at the time was a violation of his probation.

Pastor prayed with him--told him to get letters of references from school officials and his transcripts. Pastor also wrote a letter. But God... When A.J. appeared in court, the judge, seeing his grades and reading the letters, decided to canceled his probation and reduce his fines to three hundred dollars. He is now free from probation, and also free to pursue his academic goals.

Living Stones wishes to thank our supporters, volunteers, and interns who make these stories, testimonies, and work possible. You are a Living Stones--1 Peter 2:4-9 by investing in children and families today.

Become Stones Builders with us, and make the dreams of another child and family possible. Donate today.



Your Servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josephine Gamboa-Montgomery".

Josephine Gamboa-Montgomery
Executive Director



* Living Stones is a voting member of the Service Network based in South Florida and as a member, we are responsible for establishing bonding visits between children and their incarcerated parents in North Florida State Prisons. The program called The Children of Inmates has provided quarterly bonding visits for the last six years at state prisons throughout mainly South Florida and North Florida. Living Stones celebrated our 1st Anniversary for our Children of Inmates' Program on August 16, 2013, the exact date one year ago.