



BEL-AIRE

YEAR END REPORT 2022

Core Values

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS.

We believe we were created to live in friendship with God and with each other. And that we are shaped the most by the people we spend the most time with. All of our programs are created to give us the platform for relationships with our students.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

We believe as our Creator and King, God knows the way that life works best, and that fullness of life is found in Him alone. We pray Bel-Aire is a place where our students learn every day more about who God is and what it looks like to know and love Him.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

We believe school is important! So we check grades, help with homework and communicate with schools.

School is not the only way we focus on education. We bring in speakers, take trips and teach our students practical skills to further their education in other areas as well to prepare them for life after high school.





THE SLOW, HOLY AND FAITHFUL WORK OF GOD

Dear Friends,

This is one of my favorite things I get to do each year, creating this little booklet, looking back at pictures and putting words on paper to what happens at Bel-Aire, day in and day out. It feels like a holy thing, the stopping, the remembering, laughing at a hundred ridiculous memories. That's what you get working with kids, so many moments of, 'did they really say that? Did that just happen?' And then on to the next thing, because it's 5:00 now, and time for the Boost kids to leave and the Open Court guys to pour onto the court.

In all of the moments that have made up this year and created this place, I really do believe in the holiness of it all. In the Image of a good God, reflected in each of these students' faces.

What an act of worship it is, to walk with God and know Him more through knowing these kids and walking through the day to day with them.

It's been a hard year in many ways. I feel like more than ever this year, we have stared straight in the eyes of the ugly and unfair situations that surround the work here. Students who live with their grandparents, while longing for a relationship with their mom or dad. A school shooting that hit close to home, families being displaced from homes due to higher rent and gentrification. Single mom's working extra shifts to make ends meet. Students in foster care, scared to go home. A teenage pregnancy, a teenage Mom.

It is hard, this work, I've heard myself say more than ever this year. Oh, but it is beautiful, it is good, and I know I speak for our team, when I say, we wouldn't trade it for anything.

Because, against the brokenness, against the hurt, against the wrong, shines a light. A Light brighter than the darkness. A Light, whose word has the final say over each and every student who we know and love here. He turns it upside down. He redeems. He restores. He gives life to the fullest. And the holiness of it, is not lost on us.

Thank you, Father, for this good and holy work. Even if it's slower than what we'd like to see. Even if we can't see all of what you are doing. We are so very honored and humbled to be a part.

Thank you, to each of you, for reading and following along. We pray as you read through our year, that the Light shines bright, and you will feel the JOY that is represented in these faces.

To God be the glory, our Good and Faithful King,

Kaitlin Bunge
Executive Director



BOOST

K5 - 5TH GRADE



There is never a dull day with these Elementary students! We had so much fun with them this year. Whether we were working on math or reading, growing our own plants, fishing at Mrs. Ginger's house, or going to see a Greenville Triumph game, these students are full of so much life and joy!

This year through a new partnership with Hollis Elementary, we were able to accept new students into our program, referred to us by their guidance counselors. We picked them up from school in our bus every day and were able to build a new consistency and relationship with the school. We are excited to see how the Lord uses this partnership in 2023!



" WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THIS IS A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN COME AND BE SAFE, BE THEMSELVES, HAVE FUN, AND ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN THEY ARE HERE, THEY ARE LOVED BY US, AND THEY CAN COME HERE AND BELONG HERE. WE WANT THIS PLACE TO BE FOR THEM."

- HAYDEN PETERS, ELEMENTARY PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Spa Day



Conestee Park



Reading Every Day!

RISE

6TH - 12TH GRADE



"POTENTIAL IS EVERYWHERE, OPPORTUNITY IS NOT."

We have had a great year with our teens! This is the first year we have had a full time staff member running the teen program, and the fruit from that is obvious. The teens went on three college tours, went to Carowinds, have had different speakers come and share about career options, and most importantly, met consistently throughout the year to talk about the Truth of the Gospel and the Purpose and Plans the Lord has set before them. We have been able to offer tutoring twice a week for students who are in need of academic support and even started a new middle school group!



Tubing down the Green River

BL SNOW CONES

This summer was our 2nd summer operating BL Snow Cones! We hired 15 middle and high school students to work the snow cone stand and participate in different leadership development activities throughout the week. They went on outdoor adventure trips each week, took a financial literacy class, went to different workshops, heard from influential speakers, and got to spend a week at Camp Grace. And this summer for the first time, we took BL Snow Cones on the road!! We sold snow cones at 6 different local events this year and it was such a great experience for our students!



"My favorite thing about Bel-Aire is building relationships with the teens and actually hearing them say "I love you" back". I know that is uncommon in this culture and it melts my heart. I love that our high school ladies have opened up more in our small group and let many walls down as we pray as a huge family about the challenges that we are working to overcome. I love that our students know that this is a safe place and that we believe in them! I have so many favorite things about Bel-Aire, including hearing teen guys memorize the confessions!"

-Shannon Wydman, Teen Program Director

FIRST FRIDAY



If you follow along with us at all, you've heard us rave about First Friday! The first Friday of every month we throw a big party at the Camp House for all of our students and families. Each event is sponsored by a different church and they go ABOVE and BEYOND to make these nights special for our students! Thank you to Horizon, Elevation, and Edwards Road for putting on First Friday's this year! You spoiled us!

OPEN COURT



Of all of our programs in 2022, Open Court grew the most. Every Tuesday night we gathered on the court to play basketball and this year we had 58 students attend Open Court! We have a growing crew of middle school boys who just keep inviting more of their friends, and we love it!

We spend time speaking Truth with these guys each week and play a whole lot of basketball. We are so thankful for the volunteers who come each Tuesday night to make this program possible. We couldn't do it without you!



SYRDERA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

One of Bel-Aire's Seniors this year! Syrdera has been in our teen leadership program for 3 years now. Below is her college essay she submitted to a university this fall.

"It was the end of my 8th grade year when I moved into my new house in West Greenville. Little did I know how much my new neighborhood would impact me and who I would become. During middle school, I encountered troubles academically, and mentally and was physically making decisions that were bad for me. I found myself becoming a follower in situations that were not healthy and making decisions I never thought I would make. During the first summer at my new house, I noticed children constantly coming and going out of what I thought was someone's home directly across the street from me. I eventually learned that this house was named "Bel-Aire" and that it was actually a youth-based ministry in West Greenville for students in need. Soon enough I discovered they would teach me how to serve my community, how to develop a work ethic, and how to build my character.

I quickly learned that Bel-Aire offered an after-school program for students in first through fifth grade where they provided homework help and tutoring. My sister Samiya enrolled, and soon after I started volunteering to help every day after school. I began by helping read to the students and helping out with the after-school crafts. Eventually, I began helping with homework and the outside free time given to the students after the work is done.

Bel-Aire has shown me how to not only take care of others but take care of myself and serve my community.

The summer after my sophomore year, Bel-Aire started a summer snow cone business serving our neighborhood and other communities as well. In order to get the job, I had to fill out an application, schedule an interview, and after being hired go through a training process. I was one of the students selected for the job and began to learn more about customer service, time management, and organizational skills. These skills were a huge benefit to me when I applied for and got a job at Chick-fil-a in the future. I give credit to my time at the snow cone business for the strong work ethic that I have today.

Finally, Bel-Aire has been beneficial in helping develop my character. I went from being a shy eighth grader following the crowd to a confident senior in high school who is independent with a bright future ahead of me. The leadership program called "Rise" started at Bel-Aire to help high school students thrive in their relationships, academics, spiritual life, and emotional health. While attending Rise, I have learned to equip and empower myself for whatever obstacles arise.

I strongly believe the [school name] is an amazing university that will allow me to show my leadership. I know what it looks like to be part of a community and know I would make a great fit for this university. I am open-minded, ambitious, and willing to learn more about how my servant leadership can impact lives at the [school name]. "

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR

We have seen a lot of growth this year in many areas. And one we are extra thankful for is the Bel-Aire Staff. This year we hired Hayden as Elementary Director and Kelsie as Program Assistant. This gives us a team of 4 with Shannon running the teen program and Kaitlin working on development and administration. We are grateful for the generosity of so many that have provided for this growth! We really believe that consistent staff presence makes a huge difference in the culture of this ministry and in the lives of our students. This team is such a GIFT.



Our summer interns, Ned & Annie, thank you for everything!



GOAT Trips



Snow Cones on the Road



Mentors, we love you!



Financial Literacy



Camp Grace is our favorite week of the summer!

"It's hard not to feel the presence of God in Bel-Aire. Seeing and hearing the Boost students take time to remember the Lord's Prayer and learning how to pray both will always be one of the best ways I've experienced God working this year. Being around the teens and watching them become more receptive to God's word each week and actually trying to apply it to their everyday lives. God is continuously providing us with the ability to make Bel-Aire possible.



Inflatables at First Friday



Making A's & B's and getting to play with the teens!

My favorite part of my job is definitely the relationships I have built with the students. I love having the BOOST girls notice changes about my hair or the BOOST boys coming up and telling me some of the craziest stories I have ever heard. I enjoy connecting with the RISE ladies and having them trust me enough to look at me as not only a friend but an older sister. This year, I had a student write a message on a card and say, " I love you because It has been long years and you have never gave up on us." Hearing things like this is reassurance that I am exactly where God wants me to be.



We love our Volunteers!



Children's Museum

*-Kelsie Ferguson,
Program Assistant*

THE NUMBERS SIDE

EACH OF THESE NUMBERS REPRESENTS A STORY, AND WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR EACH OF YOU WHO MADE THIS YEAR AND THESE STORIES POSSIBLE!



Lots of time outside!



BlokHaven



Cooking Class

87

STUDENTS ATTENDED A PROGRAM OR EVENT

34

STUDENTS RECEIVED ACADEMIC SUPPORT OR TUTORING



Summer Staff 2022



Pumpkin Patch w/ Boyd Team



Volunteer Banquet

14

TEENS WORKED ON SUMMER STAFF

1,416

SNOW CONES MADE



Our new Play Ground!



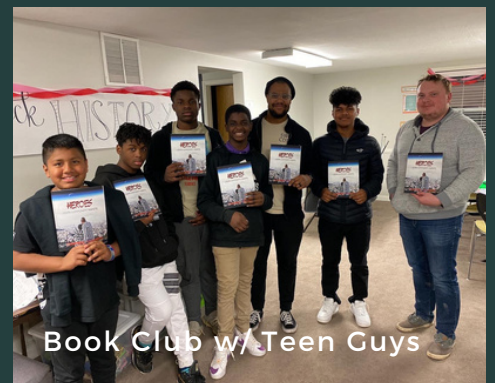
Easter Egg Hunt

24

FIELD TRIPS TO FUN & EDUCATIONAL PLACES

144

VOLUNTEERS GAVE TIME AND RESOURCES



Book Club w/ Teen Guys

24

STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN BOOST

8

TEEN OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE TRIPS

23

TEENS PARTICIPATED IN
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

2,750

MEALS EATEN AT
THE CAMP HOUSE



Boost students helping!



Mountain Biking



Face Painting



Marble Slab



Black History Month



Cardwinds



Score Keeper!



High Ropes Course

1,357,419

BASKETBALL GAMES
ON THE COURT
(ITS HARD TO COUNT THE
BASKETBALL NUMBER)



Shades in Her Palette

We've said it before and we will say it again, we couldn't do what we do without the VILLAGE represented here! Thank you to the volunteers who spend afternoons tutoring, the faithful mentors who pour into our teens, partner organizations like GOAT who take our students on outdoor trips, Pinnacle Bank for holding our financial literacy class, and so many donors who give to make all these memories possible! The list goes one and on. Thank you for giving your time, gifts and heart here!

OUR CONFESSIONS

I AM LED BY THE
SPIRIT OF GOD.
I AM GROWING
GOOD FRUIT IN
MY SPIRIT
AND IN MY LIFE.
I WALK IN LOVE.
I AM FULL OF
JOY.
PEACE RULES MY
HEART.
I AM PATIENT.
I AM KIND.
GOODNESS
GUIDES MY
THOUGHTS.
I AM GENTLE.
I HAVE CONTROL
OVER MY
ACTIONS.
I LIVE BY FAITH
IN GOD.
I HAVE A SPIRIT
CONTROLLED
LIFE.



THE FACES WHO MADE UP OUR YEAR

J.C.

JAZMENNE

SAMIYA

JONATHAN

AZARIYA

KRISTIN

MALAYSIA

JANIUS

KAIDEN

KALEIGHA

TRINITY

MATTISON

KAMARRII

SIRE

JAMILYN

AMIR

LELASHA

AMIR

DAVID

TAMYJON

DAELYN

DONTAVIOUS

EDWIN

TASIAHUS

ANNA

KINGSTEN

ANTWAN

GIOVANNI

KENSLY

SHANIA

SYRDERA

ANTONIO

KAYON

NOELLE

CHYLICIA

NIJAE

KAMBRIANN

DERVIN

CHYKYLA

SOLOMON

KARON

DAVID

CHYDESIA

KENTRELL

ALEXIA

DAVIYNA

JANIAH

SCOOBY

JULIA

AKING

LONDON

KAYLAN

MIYONNA

JAKEEM

AJ

JAVYION

ZAMONDRAY

LAILA

ISAAH

TAY

WILLIAM

HELEN

JAELYN

ETHAN

BLESSYN

BRITTANY

DANK

ZAYVION

KENNEDY

DENNIS

CAM

MALACHI

BROOKLYN

TREY

DEMETRIUS

JAVIER

RODGERIA

LE'KALE

KIYLAN

DRE

GAMIDRE

KIERA

ARKEIS

TYREE

DARIUS

ZI'QUESS

CHAUNCEY

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A
PART OF THIS VILLAGE!**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
LEARN MORE OR MAKE A
YEAR END GIFT, SCAN THIS
CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.BELAIREGVL.ORG