Newsletter



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From the Director's Desk

You may not see it, but you are making progress

When someone is going through a difficult time, finding the right words to encourage them can feel impossible. Sometimes you simply don't know what to say, and other times, silence is the best policy. I once heard someone ask, "Is she still going through that?" That question reminded me that compassion isn't something everyone shares, and that some people expect healing to happen far more quickly than it often does.
Working with clients who face emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual challenges requires continuous prayer, guidance, and a commitment to seeking helpful resources. Serving in the nonprofit sector and working closely with clients provides a deeper understanding of life's struggles that many people endure and others are blinded to. At the same time, we must also be aware of those who intentionally seek to abuse the system. That's why I believe it's important to get to know the people we serve, so we can better support their needs and be good stewards of the resources we're given.

I have to pray as I listen to the stories people share about their lives. At times, I have to listen carefully and use judgement to recognize whether someone is sincere or trying to take advantage. And at times, I have to stop and respond immediately, doing whatever is within my reach and my ability to do at that moment.

Life can sometimes be a challenge that feels impossible to overcome
A week ago, I decided to check in on a lady who attended one of our grief sessions a few months back. She lost her 19-year-old son to gun violence several years earlier who was killed in front of their home. From time to time, I send her a text just to see how she's doing and remind her that she is not alone.

From the Director's Desk

This time her reply stocked me. She said, "Unfortunately, last Sunday, when I tried to wake my 1-year-old grandson for church, I discovered he had passed away in bed beside me." For a moment, I didn't know what to say to her. Finally, all I could say was, "Oh my Lord... do you need me to come over?" I was later told by one of her church members that the baby had been congested, but the family didn't know it was as serious. What do you say in times like this? How do you find words when someone has experienced two devastating losses? What do you do when the pain is so deep and the grief is so heavy? Sometimes, all we can do is show up and remind them that they don't have to walk through these dark times alone.

This week I also spoke with a grandfather whose 6-month-old granddaughter is on the verge of liver failure. One of the greatest blessings of working with clients is getting to hear lovely stories about the wonderful things happening in their lives. But on the other hand, I hear painful stories and I see and hear the tears that so many try to hide. Do stories like these affect us, and others who work with families? Absolutely. Do we at DBC choose to keep moving forward? Yes, every single day. We do it because we care about the families we serve and because our commitment to our clients is stronger than the challenges we face. We try to remove self so we can focus on what matters most, our client's needs.

Be compassionate and supportive

Sometimes we get so caught up in our own world that we don't recognize the needs of those around us; whatever that need may be. Those who are hurt often become dazed not only by their own struggles, but also the frustration, sadness, and anger that surround them, leaving many to suffer alone.

From the Director's Desk

We never know what people are going through. Be the one who offers words of encouragement and not the one who finds fault while adding layers of more stress. Be the one who looks for solutions, instead of contributing to the problems. Be so focused on making a positive difference in this complex world that you don't waste your energy dwelling on obstacles that only bring more discomfort to a hurting world. Be the one that brings a little life to those drowning and struggling for a breath of fresh air. Be the one who says, "Not my will be done, but thy will be done, Oh Lord, here on earth as it is in heaven".

I admit that it is far easier to write these words than to live them consistently each day while serving and supporting others. We have our own heartaches and struggle to face, but the task given to us who work alongside communities is a gift that's not meant for everyone to walk.

The emotional, mental, and spiritual support is what guides and gives us strength to continue to show up. That strength allows us to help people move beyond complacency and, for some, find a way to remove themselves from the misery that surrounds them. The work we do in communities is not always easy, but the opportunity to impact someone's life is a privilege and a purpose driven calling.

"Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go,
just remember how far you have come"

Annette Cullors,
Interim Executive Director

Kids Summer Camp – Bumble Bees

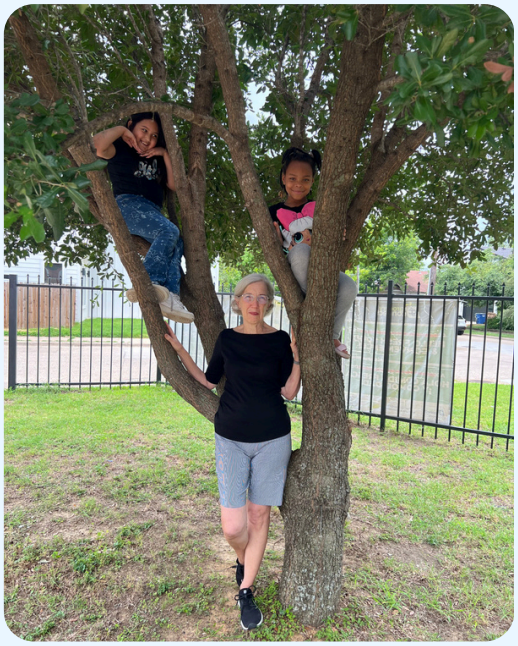






Kids Summer Camp – Bumble Bees









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Kids Summer Camp – Bumble Bees







Youth Camp – Jammin' & Jellin'







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Youth Camp – Jammin' & Jellin'









Youth Camp – Jammin' & Jellin'









Youth Camp – Jammin' & Jellin'





Grocery Connect Carnival





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African American Museum – Art Quest








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