

## **The Mechanicsville Project**

The Mechanicsville project was created to help people a community and a church as they go through the gentrification process. (Gentrification definition is: the buying and renovation of houses and stores in deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper- or middle-income families or individuals). This might sound good for some, but what about the older and poorer residents who can't afford the new cost of living that comes with the new home, stores, streets and sidewalks? We understand that's the price of progress, but what about the hundreds and even thousands of people who have lived in this community through two -three generations.

This was one of the motivating factors that inspired Gpp Foundation Inc. to come to Mechanicsville; we asked the question, and didn't get a satisfactory answer. People were being coerced into selling their homes and property for a fraction of what they were worth.

### **Gpp Foundation Inc.**

The Gpp Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization that was created to support the fallen, the lost, and the disenfranchised, those whom society has devalued and discarded. We work to stand up for the little man, the one that feels like life has given up on him too. We offer hope in hopeless situations for all people who need and want help. We believe and stand on this line of thinking, "you can get up from your current situation, if you try." Our theme is - **"Give a man a fish, he eats that day, but teach him to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime."** We don't want to give you something that makes you dependent; we want to provide you the tools to go get it yourself.

**Our Vision** Is to give hope and purpose to people who have forgotten or lost theirs, to lift up the discarded, who society gave up on. We seek to inspire and encourage the fallen to rise and stand, that we are all ordained for a purpose by a God - our Father that doesn't make mistakes.

**Our Mission** Is to inspire, motivate, encourage and lead the weary, to be a voice for the voiceless, to exemplify our daily walk as imperfect children of an omnipresent God that loves us in spite of our fallen past. To remind all that we are created and ordained with a purpose yet defined, and that we are all forever a work in progress.

### **The Mechanicsville project**

This project is a faith based program, created to help people learn a skilled trade position, using hands on techniques on real equipment, tools and projects. We offer the opportunity learn specific trades listed below to earn a foot in the door opportunity to future career employment. The training will come from some volunteers who are professionals in crafts that have built their careers, and for some their businesses on what they will teach. Because we will use real equipment, tools and materials to develop specific projects, we will have strict guidelines that everyone will be required to follow.

This program offers another opportunity for those who have made some bad decisions and have **criminal backgrounds** but want an opportunity to turn it around. We are partnering with other organizations that will help get that past record resolved. We know that some haven't received a high school diploma; we are working with another organization to help get **GED's**. The subjects we will offer as listed below.

### **Subjects**

**#1. Landscaping #2. Irrigation #3. Heavy equipment operation #4. Drafting #5. Biblical studies 101 #6. Dressing for an interview #7. Filling out an application #8. Success in an interview #9. Writing a Resume #10. Carpentry #11. Electrician #12 GED**

The training is offered in conjunction with the Gpp Foundation Inc. and Greater Hopewell Church. We know everyone isn't cut out to go to college and some haven't completed their high school diploma, which is why we feel this course is a good fit. This training will consist of both hands-on learning and there is some subject matter that will have text learning in it, but we are willing to spend personal time with the participant.

## **This program**

**A.** 17-50 years old males & females, **B.** Drug test required, **C.** Program is 5-6 weeks **D.** lite breakfast & lunch (yes, we plan to feed the participants; that's another reason we need your support).

No, we are not beating or forcing anyone to be something they're not, but we are a faith based organization and our aim is to introduce those lost to Whom leads us. The Bible will be part of the curriculum. We hope our walk would lead someone to Christ and He will take it from there. This organization seeks to help all people in and around the community: ex-offenders, high school dropouts, those with addictions, and the fallen. Whatever your circumstance we are willing to work with you, if you are willing to work with us. There will be rules and regulations that must be followed for safety and respect of all involved. This program doesn't cost the participants; we are raising funds through donations, sponsorships, speaking engagements, the selling of wristbands, t-shirts, sweatshirts and our new bracelets. The people who lend their time, talent and training will be volunteers, and training is straight forward, no nonsense, yet it will be in an adult relaxed atmosphere. Everyone will be required to demonstrate what they've learned. And there will be documentation maintained of each participant's progress.

Obtaining these skills and trades lead to a brighter future and a more promising career. This will also lead to establishing individual financial and economic independence. Our vision is that the participants in this program can build and maintain their own freedom to live and sustain their own living environment and the ability to support their families where they choose. What we are most proud of is that our training is for male and female, people who have criminal backgrounds. We will equip each participant with the tools to step into society's workforce better prepared to perform a skilled position.

This training helps the participant through actual hands on in the field training. By exposing them to hands on training (HOT) by skilled professionals, we can also train participants on creating a working relationship between coworkers and management. We seek to show the progress of the participant when they first enter the training to when they graduate. Our goal is to help participants get opportunities to join with construction companies, contractors, and city government in apprenticeship **training, internship** and possible **job opportunities**. We seek to create relationship /sponsorships with private contractors, entrepreneurs, construction management, corporations and city government for support and job opportunities.

We need everyone's help with this program; it's not about us or about you, it's about the needs of the people. If we start helping people through programs like this, we all start believing that we can make the difference in peoples and our own lives. The door will be open, we need your support, we can't do this with you, but if you find yourself coming up with more reason why it won't work, (forgive me, no disrespect) but keep it to yourself. There is no more time for pointing to the problem with no solutions, no more time for waiting for someone to come in to save us, we can do this if we help each other.

Min. Paul Martin