

## Generation Station 2010 Student and Parent Testimonials

When told there would be an open house at the Generation Station, I was not hesitant to share my feelings about how much it has meant to me and my family.

During the thought process of this program years ago, you could see God working in so many ways, getting it opened, getting people involved, and getting students to come. Still today, God is so evident in this whole program. The people who have taught, tutored, helped, prayed, contributed, donated, painted, cleaned.....is tremendous. So many hands have been in here along the way.

When my son Nick started coming t the after school program years ago, Allison Windle and the Shitama's were very much involved. Through their help and others, Nick received help on homework, tutoring and many other activities. They had dances, concerts, cafes and so much more. Our whole family enjoyed there events. His favorite thing was the pool table. At this time, the students walked to the Generation Station so the van was a much needed and appreciated addition.

Now my daughter Kirsten comes. I am so thankful for the many years she has been in a safe and friendly environment. She has made it her second home for after school activities. She still gets help with homework but also is given chores so it gives her the feeling that she if really needed and that the Generation Station staff is aware that she has grown and matured.

Kirsten has become so close to Anita, Gail, Jodi, and now Miles. They have talked, cleaned, prayed, and done so much. Even when not at the Generation Station, Kirsten wants to call all these people because they are like her family.

The Generation Station has trips and classes that are so meaningful. They've gone fishing, played laser tag, gone shopping, horseback riding, hiking, to church, and so on. They teach them to not start smoking, not to do drugs, and not to have sex before marriage.

When you walk in the Generation Station, you might see quiet homework time or talking, yelling or singing, even some arguing...but it is like one big happy family. The teachers are so caring, even when they need to raise their voice to calm someone down, it is out of a love for the students. They try daily to teach them to act in a way their parents would be proud of and to always remember to look to God for guidance.

I can't tell you how much the Generation Station has helped Kirsten's grades and also helped her self esteem. It also helps me knowing that I can feel confident she is not doing the things that some other kids her age are engaging in after school.

The students get their homework done, have wonderful snacks (meals), free time, outside exercise (basketball, football, etc.), and some even go to church services. They even take them home after church if needed. How great is that for after school care?

Each one of the teachers and volunteers put so much time into the station. It's so much more than a 3-5 hour job. God has led these people here. That is so obvious to me. But God has also led these students here. They work through each other and each one of them, both the teachers and the students, share God's gifts of love and grace.

I am very thankful for this program and very thankful for all who contribute their time and money for such a needed cause! Cindy

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My name is David and I am in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I have been coming to the Generation Station since I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and it gets better and better each year. Back when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade I was having trouble with my grades, but after coming here, I have gone from average to honor roll! The Station has helped me improve on my grades. The staff helps me with whatever I need help with and they make it fun. When I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I went horseback riding and fishing, and the fishing was a blast! My brother came to the station until 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and my sister has been attending for 2 years also. When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade we went to the Philadelphia Zoo for completing the life skills program. It was a great time! We also went to the Baltimore Aquarium! As I said, every year the program gets better and better. I really appreciate everything the Generation Station has done in my life. The staff here became my friends and they are all very nice people. It has also helped me to make friends with people at my school from other grades. All in all, the Generation Station has made a big impact on my life and also my future!

David 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

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Hi, my name is Brianna. I have been attending the Generation Station for 3 years. Believe it or not, the Generation Station has many benefits. It allows us to be in a quiet learning environment. The staff at the Generation Station really help us to learn all of our materials and also help to make sure we are doing our homework correctly. The people here are truly fantastic and it would be a shame if this place ever shut down because of a lack of funding. While you are here, and taking a tour, please consider donating or even just encouraging us to keep this ministry going! Brianna 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

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I love coming to the Generation Station. I come here so I don't have to go home where there is nothing to do. I also like the fact that I can go to church and learn about God! I get my homework done, and earn "G" Bucks for praying before we eat snack, getting "A's" on tests, or just helping out. I enjoy coming here to hang out with my friends that I don't get to see during the school day! I really enjoy it here! Kimi 8<sup>th</sup> grade

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Hi, my name is Kirsten and I am in Tenth grade. I am a helper at the Generation Station and have been attending for over four years. I have been coming here since sixth grade. The Generation Station has done a lot for me over the past four years. For example, I am waiting to have sex until I am married, so I can marry the one who loves me for who I am. Also, my faith has become stronger from attending the program. The Generation Station is like a home to me because it is a place I can go after school to do homework and hang out with friends. I am thankful for the Station because I have made a lot of new friends there. Ms. Gail, Ms. Anita, and Ms. Jodi are like a family to me. Miles is sort of new but I still consider him as family. Everyone is there if you need to talk to them. They have people coming and talking about why sex is bad. And I'm actually glad now that I know what kind of diseases you can have. My best memory is that they took us to the nursing home and I got to visit my great grandma. Another memory I have is when we went on a boat and went fishing. We went to the zoo. We went to laser tag. The generation station is a safe environment, it's easy to get to and it's fun. When we get

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angry or upset they sit us down and talk with us to try to calm us down. Some other places we went to were body builders, Y.M.C.A, and the aquarium. My favorite part about the aquarium is that we got to see the dolphin show. There are people there to help you with homework. If anything was to happen to the generation station I would be upset. Also my grades have improved since I've been here. I remember in sixth grade Ms. Anita asked me to spend the night and it was so much fun. She took me to this food market and after that we went to dairy cream where her daughter worked. Then we went to Wal-Mart and got betas. Later on that year Ms. Gail picked me up. First we went to this pool place by the thrift shop. Then we went to the grocery store. Everyone at the generation station knows me so well. Our basic schedule is we get there, we sign in, do prayer, eat snack, and have homework time, and finally free time. We always go to this place called tailwinds where we can ride horses for about an hour. And we can fish. After that we eat and hangout. Oh yeah, I almost forgot to say that we went to the movies and we saw the Nativity story. Ever since we saw that it has been my favorite Christmas story. Did I mention the most important part, it's FREE! Unless they ask you for money for a field trip. Or if you want to buy candy or soda after homework time. A lot of people are going here. All I'm asking is to people please keep the generation station open. Hopefully I can come back and work here when I'm older. I found out who I am. I am a sweet, caring, loving person who has her full trust in God. When I was crying they sat down and they asked if they could pray for me. And I said yes.

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My name is Krissy and I have been attending the Generation Station for 4 years. I has opened my eyes to a lot of things. I have become a lot stronger in my faith, and I have become a lot more open minded. The Generation Station actually has a meaning behind it. My sister came here 7 years ago and it inspired me to come. I also got my friends to go! During my years at the Station, I matured and opened up a lot. Believe it or not, I used to be shy and quiet! Now I am not afraid to get up and talk and be involved. The Generation Station has been taking me to church every Wednesday night for the past four years. I have grown closer to God and grown up a lot! It has also helped me to make new friends and stay out of trouble. The Generation Station has been open for 10 years, and I really hope it stays open for many more. It is a great place and I would recommend it to everybody. Ms. Anita, Ms. Gail, Ms. Jodi, Miles and Ms. Tiffany are all very inspirational and have all made an impact on my life. I am very thankful for This place. Ms. Anita is very supportive and she always is in a good mood. She can always put a smile on my face. Ms. Jodi is very helpful and is always helping me with homework. Ms. Gail is crazy! (In a good way!!) She always makes me laugh and is fun to talk to. Miles is fun and he is laid back. Tiffany is awesome too! She is someone you can trust and talk to just like she's your best friend. The Generation Station means a lot to me and everyone else that comes here. A decade of the Station being open is definitely something to celebrate! Krissy 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

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I come to the "G" because I love how we have fun and laugh about the funniest things...and some dumb things too. I like hanging out with my friends after school and playing basketball and just having fun. I like that I can get my homework done so I don't have to do it when I get home at night. That is why I keep coming to the "G"! Malik 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

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As a struggling mother of two children with no family support, I am ever so grateful to have the Generation Station as a support system. GS has allowed me to work out of the home, and at times all day, with peace of mind. Since my children were born, they have been at a disadvantage. The only support system they have had was only myself and their grandparents from time to time. Life has been a huge struggle and I spent many tearful nights since support from immediate family members including the children's fathers was never present. While my children grew up their lives entailed being stuck in an apartment (because the area in which we lived at the time was extremely unsafe to play outside) with their grandparents watching TV while I worked; or my children attended classes with me while I earned my degree. My inability to trust was a huge issue because of the horrific incidents that occur in life when children are left with just anyone. This, combined with extremely limited funds, somehow affected my children's social and emotional stability. Finding the Generation Station was a blessing. The support given to my children in various ways has relieved a heavy burden off my shoulders. My children now have a way and a means of participating in different events and doing the many things that are important to kids at their age. The GS has many positive attributes that make it a great place to be, such as:

- \*Christian based environment and staff
- \*Safe after-school program
- \*Homework time and help
- \*Positive and motivated staff
- \*Praise and worship at church
- \*Life Skills training
- \*Events that include family participation
- \*Hands on community involvement
- \*Activities, entertainment and games
- \*Genuine support with personal issues
- \*Words of support and wisdom that children don't necessarily want to hear from parents but are reinforced through role models at the station.
- \*Transportation from school and a safe ride home.

\*Most importantly, otherwise my children wouldn't be able to participate... a free program! GS ensures that the important aspects of young adult's lives are met to some degree. Their encouragement, respect and support to personal issues deserve much praise. Never have I encountered such genuine support from any outside organization or staff. I thank Anita and Gail for proving themselves in time of need. Without their help, support and guidance I would feel lost. Ultimately, the Generation Station has been a safe haven for my children. It is a beneficial program that actually targets the needs of young adults and their changing lives. It is consistent in its efforts to improve the lives of our children. Thank you Generation Station! I have never been able to work stress free until now. I work and feel comfortable enough knowing that my children are in safe hands and are with a staff that works at helping kids be their best. Thank You!!! Ms. Jacqueline

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gail, Anita, and the other staff members for the hard work they put into the after school program. This program has helped me through the years. I have been a foster and adoptive parent for almost 26 years. Many of my children have received help with their homework and school projects that are due. The Station also has helped with manners and respect for themselves and others and it teaches responsibility. The staff was very supportive to me and my family after the death of my husband. My son Tony never wants to miss time at the Station, that is how much

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he love the staff and his friends that go there. The program keeps at risk children off the street and the kids are dropped off right at their front door when the program is over. Many of these students may not have been exposed to many trips and outings that the Station provides. Again, I would like to thank the staff for a great job and for all they have done and are continuing to do! Ms. Sarah

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I come here because there is nothing to do at home after school and I get to have good food and go to church. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends during free time at the program! Tony 8th Grade