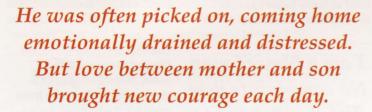
Travis is a Boy Scout!

By Morris Cowan / AUM

His teenage mother came from Cuba by way of Florida in search of freedom and a better life. She ultimately married and moved to New York City. For years she endured a dysfunctional, often abusive, relationship with her husband. She remained in the relationship because of her now twelve year old son, Travis. Two years ago her husband died.

To break from her past and launch a fresh start, she and Travis came to Atlanta to find hope and a new life. However, hopefulness and that new life were elusive. Homeless and in crisis, they entered AUM's My Sister's House. Their world began to change. Having completed the recovery program, mother and son moved to Village Atlanta in College Park, GA. Though life was better, the struggles had been hard on young Travis. He was the "new kid from New York City" at school. He was often picked on, coming home emotionally drained and distressed. But love between mother and son brought new courage each day.



In March of this year something unexpected happened. Travis and his mother were invited by Ms. Dolores Harmon, District Board Member of the Boy Scouts of American, to make a presentation to the South Fulton District of the BSA Roundtable about life at Village Atlanta. Travis had never made a presentation before, but, by the end of his talk about having found hope at Village Atlanta, there was no one in the audience unaffected by his story.

Also attending the meeting were Chris Walker, District Commissioner, and Monique Taylor, Area 1 Field Director of the BSA. With a nod from each Ms. Harmon asked Travis if he would like to go camping. Also, would he like to become a Boy Scout in her troop? With a huge grin, Travis answered, "YES!"The next evening Ms. Harmon picked up Travis, and presented him with uniforms, boots, and camping gear. Fully equipped Travis, Ms. Harmon and Troop 100 departed for a weekend of camping. Today, Travis is a fully engaged Boy Scout, attending meetings with his new troop just two miles from Village Atlanta.



BSA Atlanta Area Council, South Fulton District Roundtable (Travis is fourth from the right and his mom is in the rear, left side of banner)

But the story continues. Ms. Harmon launched an email campaign to District leaders about Village Atlanta resulting in the facility being officially designated as the major service project for all South Fulton District Troops, and especially for Eagle Scout candidates completing requirements. And plans are in the works for a possible Cub Scout Pack for the younger boys. Ms. Harmon caught the vision of the Mission's mission and engaged. Due to one lady's inexhaustible efforts and love for children in crisis, Ms. Harmon and the BSA South Fulton District have made it possible for Travis's mom to say, "Travis is a Boy Scout!"

Those at the March meeting witnessed the unexpected arrival of the Holy Spirit in the lives of a young man, his mother and many others. God has called many into service through the Mission and often reveals His plans in unexpected life changing ways. We would love to hear your story about how God has used you to serve others through the Mission. Please call or email and share your blessings with us! (Morris Cowan, Director of Development – 404-367-2278 or morris.cowan@myaum.org)

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