



FALL 2023

# THE AXIOM

Equipping and empowering young people to reach their untapped potential

## It Takes a Community...

BY LEVI KNISS

Some things in life will never make sense. Losing a child so young will never make sense to any of us. My heart is broken for families and friends. I want to help... to support... and to pray with all those affected. I don't have all the answers, but I do know that it takes a community to rally around those who have experienced loss and show them the support they need.

The response to teen death is different when said teen was an "at-risk" youth, who made some questionable decisions and exhibited poor behavior choices. Instead of responding like this, let us be known for responding by calling out the good in us and the unique gifts and abilities we have. All of our youth should be viewed the same way. God created specific gifts and abilities within them too. I know I am grateful that I am not judged based on my worst decisions or most irresponsible behaviors and I am sure you would be too!

At the Axiom, we don't *only* see their mistakes and poor choices, we *also* see their untapped potential, their God given talents, even when they don't. They often feel like life has so many limitations and they are stuck in a certain lifestyle. We have an opportunity to reveal to them the living hope of Christ and walk with them towards redemption and restoration.

Let us **CHOOSE** to be a **COMMUNITY FOR** our **STUDENTS!**

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## Discipleship Through Relationship

BY LEVI KNISS

Relationships have a huge effect on our daily lives. Who we spend the most time with, is where we draw our most influence from. At the Axiom, we offer 20+ hours with our students. For many, that's more than the time that they spend with their parents. Leaving early for school only allows for brief interaction and after the Axiom, it's dinner and bedtime. We take this time and influence very seriously. We meet our students right where they are. It starts with a formal introduction. At times it segways into an awkward verbal exchange, and others there is an instant connection. The important thing is that we are always growing in a relationship together.

I remember very well when my mother passed away. I received a call while at Axiom. I rushed to her house in an attempt to save her life. Unfortunately it was too late. After many attempts to revive her, I realized that she had already entered heaven's gate.



This was the most heartbreaking time of my life, but The Axiom was there. The students, staff and volunteers, surrounded me with the love and care that I desperately needed. We prayed together and cried together. They showed me they were there to help me walk through that incredibly difficult situation. This is Axiom's' daily walk with the students.

Together, we make available , mental, emotional, spiritual and tangible support. We offer advice and input when requested. We promote a safe and structured space to share struggles and concerns, while allowing Holy Spirit room to guide and direct our steps and our conversations.

**“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?”**

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.





My Name is Marcos Gonzalez and I am the newest addition to the AXIOM family as the Executive Director. I am very pleased with what the AXIOM has carried all these years with your continued support and look forward to what we can all do together.

I remember what it was like for me as a teen and I wouldn't wish my experiences upon anyone. It breaks my heart to know that young people are experiencing those same issues generation after generation. I have received great healing and redemption since and now I am an adamant advocate for our youth to become the change they wish to see in our society. Together we can overcome anything.



My wife and I share an amazing 22 years together and two wonderful daughters. We desire to live purposeful lives. My wife shares my passion of advocating for youth as well as for promoting whole, healthy families. Both of our daughters are very artistic, creative and musically inclined. They too are very excited about this next season for us as a family and look forward to getting to know the AXIOM students.

We cannot express enough how grateful we are to have been blessed with this opportunity to be a catalyst of redemption for these young people and will steward it as best we can. I look forward to getting to know you all personally and exploring how we can grow our support for the AXIOM, together.



# THANK YOU



We take our responsibility here at the Axiom seriously. We want to thank you for taking these students seriously as well. Your donations and partnership has a lasting impact and is an eternal blessing.

Your continued support is what helps us go after the best for these students. When students graduate from Axiom, they understand that they they have been poured into with prayer and support. We cannot THANK YOU enough!



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