



RTNI

2020 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

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WHAT WE DO

Our weekly programming includes RXN Youth Bible Study, Young Disciples Children's Bible Study, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring, and Leadership Academy. Through the RTNI School of Servanthood, thirteen interns have been trained for lasting, fruitful, Christian ministry. Additionally, seasonal activities include Jesus Fun Days, skills camps, the Prayer Tent, and Community Arts Camp. **These programs of RTNI introduce neighbors, mentors and students to meaningful relationships.**

Because RTNI focuses on relationship building, so much more happens outside of our programs. In addition to the above activities, there were over 2,000 youth drop-in visits in 2019 alone. Conversations on the basketball court, prayer times on neighbors' porches, and car rides with young athletes on the way to their sporting events are just a few examples of how we regularly connect with neighbors.

MINISTRY IS A LIFESTYLE, NOT AN EVENT, WHEN YOU ARE A PART OF THE RTNI FAMILY.

RTNI has grown to serve students and families in the South Linden, Trevitt, and Abbey Lane communities as well. RTNI now has multiple "Jesus Houses" and partners with dozens of churches and organizations to see transformative, Christ-centered change in the communities we serve.



2019 AT A GLANCE

2000+

YOUTH DROP-IN VISITS

217

YOUTH IN RTNI
PROGRAMS

280

VOLUNTEERS

5000+

VOLUNTEER HOURS
SERVED



HOW WE GOT HERE

When Aaron and Emily Starr moved to Milo-Grogan with a vision to disciple people in hard places, Reaching the Nations International (RTNI) was born.

The Starrs made their personal home on 2nd Avenue a base of ministry in February 2007, and since that time, more than 800 youth have spent time in their home or participated in RTNI activities. They connect through board games and meals, and talk about how God impacts their every-day lives.

Over 500 volunteers have been a part of the RTNI family, and each have been changed by the bright, tenacious youth they serve. RTNI recognizes urban youth as uniquely equipped to be leaders and influencers for the Kingdom of God because of their connection to both the suffering and compassion of Jesus.

VISION: People in hard communities everywhere reached with the gospel and equipped to reach others.

MISSION: Empowering people to live out their identity in Christ through life-on-life discipleship.



MY NAME IS ALIYA

I AM RTNI

My name is Aliya. I am a third year social work major at OSU, and I believe that we should involve ourselves with the things that are important to God. When I signed up to tutor a student through RTNI, I was uncertain about how it would go. I did not have a lot of experience working with kids.

As time went on, I grew more and more attached to this ministry and the kids that so eagerly show up each week. My time here has been an extreme blessing from God. It has deepened my love for young people and has taught me how much God delights in His children. He wants us to encounter Him, even at a young age. RTNI exists for that reason!

My student Jazmyne is funny, kind and so intelligent. I have loved getting to know her over the past two years, as well as the other girls in the house where we meet each week. As of late, Jazmyne and I have been working on our communication skills. Whenever we are not comfortable with something or are angry, we are doing our best to respectfully express that with one another. It has not been the easiest task before us. However, I appreciate the moments where she puts the advice I have been giving her into practice. In return, it is up to me to listen to her concerns and respond in an impactful way. This helps us understand each other better.

The community and friendship I have found in the other tutors has also encouraged me in my relationship with God. I am so appreciative of RTNI and all the leaders who work so diligently because they love God and kids!

A photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a light blue checkered shirt and a dark tie, shaking hands with a young Black boy with glasses. The boy is wearing a grey t-shirt with the words 'I RUN THIS' printed on it. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

MY NAME IS TIZON

I AM RTNI

My name is Tizon and I graduated from Leadership Academy (LA) in 2019. It was relevant to me because I am excited about becoming a better leader. I want to be a positive influence to those around me and help change the world in a meaningful way.

LA helped me learn how to do that. For example, I had a lot of fun playing the balloon game. There were a lot of rules. Your balloon couldn't touch the ground, no one else's balloon could touch you, you couldn't look anyone in the eyes, and you couldn't speak. If you broke any of those rules you were out. The big challenge was being honest about actually following the rules. It really highlighted our core value of INTEGRITY – doing the right thing even when no one is looking. We talked through how we cheated or were tempted to cheat, if we thought we could get away with it. We then discussed other real life situations where we might be tempted to compromise our integrity.

The Conflict Resolution theme was also really powerful. We learned about different ways to deal with conflict and were given tools to resolve conflict peacefully. We might not be able to control when or how conflict will come to us, but we can learn to control our responses, avoid dangerous situations, show respect, and hopefully be respected back. I personally learned how to communicate better and also the difference between hearing and listening.

Our Annual Fundraising Banquet is scheduled for May 7, 2020. However due to COVID-19, we are changing the May banquet to a **virtual event**.

In addition to night-of giving, we recruit individual, church and business sponsors to help make this event a success! These sponsorships help advance the cause of mentoring and discipling youth in hard places. Will you join us for our annual fundraising event and consider sponsoring this cause?

Sponsoring the banquet helps:

- Expand our network by inviting friends/colleagues who may have never heard of RTNI
- Create a platform to share the vision for transformed lives and communities
- Generate the finances necessary to expand and execute on that vision
- Make a difference in the lives of urban youth in Columbus, Ohio

Sponsorship Levels:

Anchoring Sponsor.....	\$11,500 & above
Champion Sponsor.....	\$5,000 - \$11,499
Advocate Sponsor.....	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Supporter Sponsor.....	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Friend Sponsor.....	\$350 - \$999

Sponsors are encouraged to invite 10 or more guests. Visit reachtni.org/tablehost for more details.

Sponsorship Benefits:

- Anchoring** | Name/logo on a banner on stage at our next banquet, plus Champion benefits
Champion | Name recognized by the presenter in the virtual event, plus Advocate benefits
Advocate | Name/logo in the pre- event countdown slideshow, plus Supporter benefits
Supporter | Name in the pre- event countdown slideshow, plus Friend benefits
Friend | Name in the electronic banquet program

****Sponsors wishing to remain anonymous should notify RTNI when sponsoring****

Deadline: May 3 (Sponsorships after the deadline may not be included in the above benefits.)

How To Give:

Checks may be written to RTNI and mailed to P.O. Box 2556 Columbus, OH 43216, or you can sponsor online via our secure donations portal at <http://reachtni.org/donate/>

(Click “Donate Online”, then choose Banquet Table Sponsorship and enter your above level of sponsorship.)

A photograph of two young women with dark hair, one with her hair in two buns and the other with braids, smiling outdoors. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the title.

EVENT DETAILS

Get Details and Register at reachtni.org/events

Notice: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RTNI will be hosting a **virtual fundraising event** in lieu of our traditional in-person fundraising banquet.

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: The virtual banquet begins promptly at 6:30 PM. A meeting invite will be emailed to all registered guests. Twenty minutes prior to the event start, RTNI will run a pre-countdown slideshow highlighting many of our youth and activities. Guests are encouraged to sign in early to view the show and to have a few minutes to verify that they have successfully logged into the meeting.

Theme: Going Deeper

Think of a tree's roots going deep into the ground. You can easily imagine that it is preparing to weather wind and storm or preparing to produce new growth. Under the surface you can't see the root system, but the healthier that root system the healthier the tree. Over the next several years RTNI will continue to go deeper from a systems and structures perspective. We are preparing for sustainable, future growth and for organizational strength.

We have always been about relationships - people over program and process over product! We will continue to build on that strong culture of relationship and go deeper with our youth and families.

Because people are our greatest asset, RTNI will continue to build bench strength, provide opportunities for leadership, and grow the capacity of the team by investing in our youth, volunteers, board, and staff. It is through people that we can deepen our impact in the communities we serve.

Lastly, RTNI is looking to expand its reach within the city, intentionally extending beyond the Milo-Grogan neighborhood. We will leverage the growing relationships that we have through our young people and families across the city. We will leverage partnerships and resources to continue to plant "Jesus Houses" as safe places for learning, transformation, and growth.



When schools, recreation centers, and libraries closed, RTNI temporarily suspended scheduled programming but remained open for drop-in visits. In the nine days following school closure, RTNI had 50 drop in visits and provided 56 meals or snack packs. Safety has been of paramount importance and many additional precautions have been implemented, but helping young people FEEL safe has also been equally as important. It has been a unique time to provide emotional and spiritual comfort as several of our younger kids have been asking if it is the end of the world.

Since the Stay At Home order was issued, RTNI has been creatively seeking ways to love, serve, and engage our youth and community. Some of those ways include:

- Partnering with other Milo-Grogan ministries to distribute community care packs with food, toilet paper, and a community resource list. (RTNI was able to distribute 250 care packs and encourage and pray with many neighbors from their porch or door step.)
- Working with city-wide partners to receive and distribute lunches to students within the neighborhood who qualify for the free lunch program.
- Celebrating *Christmas in the Spring* by taking wrapped presents (art supplies, learning games, legos, etc.) and snack packs to our students involved in regular program activities.
- Doing small group activities to connect with our young people and serve our parents in need of a few moments to catch up on chores. (We are getting creative in order to make sure that all activities can meet the minimum social distance requirement. Such activities include group walks or running games, with a very limited number of students at a time, in which everyone can be spread out in open spaces.)
- Opening a prayer hot-line for Milo-Grogan residents to call with prayer requests.
- Staying in touch with our students and families via phone, social media, and virtual meetings.

Until we are able to reconvene in small groups, we are conducting our weekly teen Bible study and Leadership Academy sessions virtually.

Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated and helps to advance the cause of life-on-life discipleship in hard places. We are getting creative in this present time to ensure that we can continue to connect with young people and serve them well. Thank you for partnering with us!