

RISING UP

AN UPDATE FROM TWIN CITIES R!SE



Dear TCR Friends and Supporters,

What a journey we have all been on these last several months. We hope this message finds you and your family safe and well.

Our TCR team has done tremendous work pivoting all of our training and job placements to online modalities. We have provided participants in our program access to Chromebooks and wireless technology. All of this, we accomplished in the span 4 weeks.

Amid this, we have seen incredible stories of success in our training, and have placed people into great jobs! We have had over 30 volunteers coach participants online in mock interviews. We have hosted online job fairs, and had three classes of participants graduate online and attain great paying jobs.

Of course, all of this has happened during great social and racial unrest. Our team at TCR is deeply tied to the community we serve. Seeing and experiencing people our community lose loved ones to Covid-19 and then experience the deep trauma, anger and grief of the George Floyd murder has tried even us firm believers.

We have risen to the occasion guided by our personal commitment and team commitment to Personal Empowerment and resilience in the face of adversity. With your help, we are flourishing, and are committed more than ever to realizing the dream and potential of our mission to transform lives!

We will not be defeated. I personally welcome you to continue your journey with us as a supporter by attending (along with all your friends and family) our first ever virtual gala on October 11, 2020. It's going to be a special event — short (60 minutes or less), powerful, engaging, and emotional. You can attend in the comfort of your own home.

Please join us to support our work and share the power of participants realizing their dreams. Let's continue to RISE in support of our community.

In solidarity and with deep appreciation,

Tom Streitz,
CEO and President



GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Dejon Jones

Dead-end jobs to Business Owner

“I came here in a time of need. I didn’t have any other options, besides going back to what I knew. I needed an income.”

A close friend and TCR graduate shared her success with Dejon and encouraged him to enroll at TCR. “She thought they would be able to help me, because they had helped her find full-time employment,” Dejon shares.

Coming to Twin Cities RISE, Dejon was looking to overcome the barriers that had held him back from achieving meaningful employment. Until TCR, background issues, transportation, unstable housing, and a lack of self-confidence prevented Dejon from the success that he found after completing TCR’s My Road to Success career training program and a TCR funded paid internship at Homeworks.

Dejon, a single father, had mainly worked fast food and bartending jobs.

“Before Twin Cities RISE, I didn’t really feel like my life was purposeful. I think that’s why I always accepted minimum wage jobs. I didn’t believe that I could do anything else besides that,” shared Dejon.

During the training program at TCR, Dejon accepted a paid internship with one of our Employer Partners, Urban Homeworks, cleaning their rental properties. After the 10 week internship, Urban Homeworks was so impressed with him that they invited him to bid on full-time contract with them.

“My TCR Career Coach helped me get certified and apply for an EIN number, and my company, Just & Divine Cleaning Solutions, LLC, was born. TCR provided the computer lab, so that I could get everything for my business started. My coach also connected me with Northside Development Center (NDC). I attended a few workshops there. Since starting my business, my income has doubled. My plan is to continue to grow my business.”

Twin Cities RISE, in addition to Urban Homeworks, also now contracts with Dejon’s business for the cleaning of our Northside office.

What would you tell someone thinking of enrolling at Twin Cities RISE?

“TCR is very informative, you learn a lot, and they really help you and believe in you. The staff makes you feel comfortable and like there is no problem that is too big for them.”

Just & Divine, LLC, provides commercial cleaning solutions for the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, (612) 723-0591

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Wynne Reece and associates from her law firm, Reece Law, L.L.C., have been partnering with Twin Cities RISE for the past three years, by providing free legal workshops on topics, such as expungement, criminal law, tenant law, and small business law to program participants. During their Northside Law Clinic, TCR participants can meet with lawyers to discuss and learn about legal issues. "Most often, the questions that we receive are about expungement," says Wynne. "We see ourselves as a resource for the community. There's no judgment. There's nothing that we haven't heard. Nothing that we haven't seen."

"I think that society does not do us any favors in making it seem as though if you have anything on your record, that your life is done, like you can't get employment, or that you can't be successful. I think that that's really false. And, I hope that I can answer questions to help people get past that." It's important for people to know that you can find employment, you can start a company and own your own business if you have a record. There are great resources out here. It can be done.

"People sit in front of me and say, thank you for listening. Even if nothing can be done, just thank you for hearing me. It's pretty powerful. Because there are also a lot of instances in which, maybe legally speaking, a matter is done and closed. But perhaps, the person I'm talking with, didn't have their say in court. I think that's so powerful to be able to say what you need to say and to have somebody hear it." shares Wynne.

Before starting her practice in 2013, Wynne's time working in both a public defender's office, and in the district attorney's office, made her intimately aware of the lack of trust of lawyers and the lack of desire to seek out legal help.

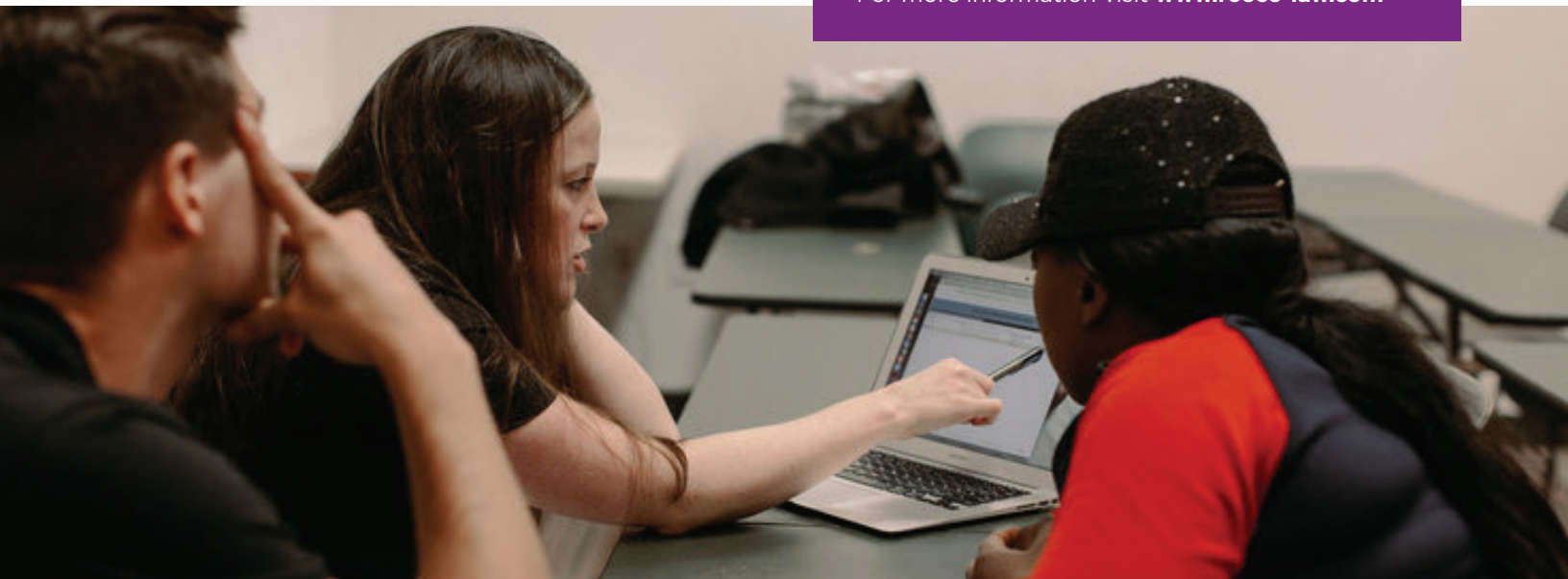
"There's still this lack of trust and lack of willingness to approach a lawyer. I thought, why don't we do a clinic at Twin Cities RISE and see how that goes," said Wynne. "The clinic soon expanded and we brought in lawyers to volunteer from other specialties around the Twin Cities."

Reece Law, L.L.C.'s, primary practice is business law and originally intended to focus on making business law accessible. "North Minneapolis has so much entrepreneurialism. I love it when people come in to the clinic with small business questions. There's this idea out there that, if you don't have a lot of assets, and maybe you're selling crafts for the community that that's not a real business and that's not true. It is a real business and there's nothing that says that you cannot be a legitimate business if your revenue is teeny tiny. I kind of think everybody owning any business deserves to feel like they're protected and legitimate." To help facilitate this, Reece Law provides legal scholarships for small businesses.

Twin Cities RISE is thankful for this continued partnership with Reece Law. They are one of the many resources that makes TCR a beacon of hope in the community.

The Northside Law Clinic is currently held via phone or Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

For more information visit www.reece-law.com





1301 Bryant Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

#Rise Together

We didn't know that when we closed our doors on March 16th for a deep cleaning, that we wouldn't return for over 4 months and that "our normal" had forever changed. Thanks to you, our supporters, and our incredible staff, what did not change, was our commitment to serve and train people looking for meaningful employment and to increase their incomes.

Twin Cities RISE pivoted our training model to the virtual world and began offering all of our programs digitally. You, our loyal supporters rose up and filled the digital divide by surpassing our goal of \$200,000 and donating over \$360,000 to provide the Chromebooks and digital services necessary to train current and incoming TCR participant on the 21st century job skills necessary to reach success during these changing times. The remote model has been well received. We just celebrated our first digital Customer Service and Call Center cohort, where 100% of the participants had job offers upon completion and are ready to get to work!

Thank you to the Smikis Foundation and all of amazing partners, stakeholders, and supporters for making this possible!



THE 2020 RISE TO THE OCCASION VIRTUAL GALA

JOIN US

Sunday, October 11, 2020

6-7 PM

FOR A

Virtual Program and Fund-A-Future Auction

REGISTER AT

www.twincitiesrise.org/gala

Free for all guests. Registration required.