

# R!SING UP

AN UPDATE FROM TWIN CITIES R!SE



CHANGE  
YOUR  
THOUGHTS  
AND YOU  
CHANGE  
YOUR  
WORLD

-Norman

# MY FIRST 90 DAYS AT TWIN CITIES R!SE



## Dear TCR Friends and Supporters,

I hope you are enjoying our fleeting Minnesota summer with time to renew and reconnect with those you love. It is an honor to serve as your incoming President and CEO of Twin Cities R!SE. Thank you for your confidence and your continued steadfast support for TCR — an organization I have admired for years and am filled with pride to now lead.

As you may know, I come from the ‘employer’ or ‘demand’ side of the workforce equation, having hired TCR graduates, I am now on the ‘supply’ side at TCR as we prepare the workforce for jobs in key demand sectors. Working for the State of Minnesota for the past 25 years, every role that I had was related to workforce development and specifically to my personal commitment to connecting those disconnected with good, family sustaining, benefit paying jobs. I am passionate about challenging myself and others to reach our full potential, never stop learning and lift as you climb!

## Three key insights from my first 90 days at Twin Cities R!SE....

**1. Effective model @ TCR** to address generational poverty: Personal Empowerment + career training + retention focused employment. Our purpose is clear. We are focused on serving those in poverty along their journey towards financial independence. We believe in accountability. And, we have outcomes to document our success, one of which is a sevenfold return on investment.

**2. We are transforming lives** – one person at a time – here are some participant voices I heard.

*“TCR has helped me find my voice, my purpose...it has changed my life!”*

*“I never had a strong female role model in my life growing up, I found that in my instructor at TCR...”*

*“My teenaged son told me he was proud of me and that I had changed since I had joined the TCR training program...”*

*“Thank you, coach, yesterday at work I avoided a disastrous situation and was able to keep my job because you taught me how to keep my remote and not let others press my buttons!”*

**3. Our TCR team is strong despite challenges:** We are not immune to the impact of the lingering pandemic, reduced revenues, the great resignation and a record low unemployment rate. However, the committed TCR team of board members, staff, donors, and our community advisors continue to be our greatest asset. It is the power of the individual and the village to bring about social change, address disparities and build wealth.

**In my first 90 days, we have also had some wonderful media coverage highlighting the incredible work of TCR.**

[Unemployment improvement not equal for all Minnesotans — KSTP.com Eyewitness News](#)

[Conversations with Al McFarlane — KFAI-Minneapolis + St. Paul](#)

[Twin Cities Rise appoints Emma Corrie to be CEO and President — Minneapolis /St. Paul Business Journal \(bizjournals.com\)](#)

[TCR's Community Celebration — Fox 9](#)

[India Association of MN newsletter](#)

[Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce's, 2022 New Executives Luncheon](#)

[Federal reserve fighting high prices, MN families hope inflation tapers out soon – Featuring TCR graduate Elaine Wilson-Graham — KSTP.com Eyewitness News](#)

[We are in the business of transforming lives; Emma Corrie brings new perspective, expansion to Twin Cities Rise — Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal \(bizjournals.com\)](#)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Having spent the last 90 days with an intentional focus internally on connecting with staff and understanding our TCR operations, I now intend to shift my focus more externally for the next 90 days. Three key areas I will be focusing on will include:

### 1. COMMUNICATIONS

We will fully communicate with our amazing base of long-standing, generous supporters who believe in us and allow us to do what we do at TCR to lift up our communities. I look forward to meeting you in person at the TCR Fall Gala on October 9, 2022.

### 2. FOCUS ON OUTCOMES

We will build strong recruitment partnerships to increase participant enrollment; leverage employer partnerships with a focus on retention and respectful workplace culture for TCR participants. We will also grow client relationships through our Empowerment Institute to build earned revenue and increase our impact beyond the Twin Cities, by leveraging technology.

### 3. PLANNING AHEAD

Soon we will finalize a 2023 operational plan and budget. Later we will embark on a five-year visioning and strategic planning process with our board and staff at TCR. I envision building on a simple formula for success at TCR:

**Supported Staff + Focused Strategy + Sustainable funding = Impactful Growth @ TCR**

I welcome your ideas, dreams, and feedback for our TCR team — share them with me at [ecorrie@twincitiesrise.org](mailto:ecorrie@twincitiesrise.org).

Thank you for your continued confidence, engagement, and volunteerism as we continue this important work transforming lives impacted by racial or socio-economic barriers through Personal Empowerment, career training and meaningful employment. I am excited about the future and deeply appreciative of your generous financial support on this journey.

Serving You,

Emma Corrie, President/CEO

*Pronouns: she, her, hers*



## R!SE from Participant to Board Member



April D. Lucas, a TCR Graduate (2000), is the Director of Shared Services and Efficiencies Management for Minnesota Department of Transportation. As a graduate from Metropolitan State University Institute of Individualized Studies and Minneapolis Community and Technical College (now Minneapolis College), April holds a bachelor's degree in Diverse Human Relations and Financial Management, 5 accounting certifications and an Associate's Degree in Accounting. Her passion is to teach about generational wealth, the importance of life insurance in our communities and the necessity of intentional self-care and personal vision.

She has 5 children (3 men, 2 young ladies – one of which is in Pre-K), owns 3 businesses and is working on her 4th. She is a Champion for the State of Minnesota, Enterprise Wide, Black and Indigenous Women of Color Employee Resource Group, the current Ambassador and previous chair for Minnesota Department of Transportation African American Employee Resource Group. She is the Champion for the State of Minnesota – Enterprise wide, Black and Indigenous Women of Color (BIWOC) Employee Resource Group (ERG), she also sits on the following boards; The African American Leadership Council – Saint Paul Chapter, Board of Directors member for Twin Cities R!SE and Advisory Board member for Reconnect Rondo to continue the heart work of her ancestors in the community they have resided and served in for almost 100 years.

April finds peace in meditation, large bodies of water, walks in nature, bike riding, playing her saxophone, astronomy, chats with her 5-year-old, and spending time with her children and their “littles” (4 grandchildren – 2 Lil Ladies and 2 Jr. Gents).



At Twin Cities R!SE we witness the power of transformation every day, our hearts and minds are committed to our mission. A key differentiator of our workforce development program is Personal Empowerment. We believe that Empowerment is the catalyst to create transformative internal changes that enables individuals to unlock their true potential. Twin Cities R!SE can speak to this through experience, observation, and the hundreds of successful testimonies from participants. However, to quantify transformation and highlight the impact of Personal Empowerment training, Twin Cities R!SE is a proud partner of Six Seconds, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to increasing the world's emotional intelligence using evidence-based tools and methods to support personal transformation and rating an individual's EQ (Emotional Quotient), allowing us to now quantify transformative success.

Six Seconds publishes the Six Seconds Emotional Intelligence Assessment, 'SEI', used in our program. This is a well-validated measure of emotional intelligence correlated with key outcomes for work and life. The Empowerment Institute will soon be announcing a two-year evaluation showcasing the impact of our curriculum and services.

We are profoundly grateful and proud to be committed to a wonderful organization that elevates continued learning, creative community collaborations, and partnership connections through emotional intelligence. The success of our communities is always elevated when we can work together towards shared impact and missions.

For full evaluation details, please visit [www.twincitiesrise.org](http://www.twincitiesrise.org).

For more information about SixSeconds visit [www.6seconds.org](http://www.6seconds.org)



## PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: ELAINE WILSON-GRAHAM



### How did you first hear about TCR?

*I was actually browsing Indeed looking for job placement and I went past the advertisement. I stopped during the process and said God give me a sign and lead me where I'm supposed to go. So I went back and initially applied for the call center program. After speaking with Travona Newell (Outreach Coordinator) I decided to go with "My Road to Success".*

### What was the most impactful aspects of the TCR training for you?

*The most impactful aspect of the training was emotional intelligence. I really buckled down and dove in head first in understanding me. Controlling my feelings and understanding that whatever was thrown at me I decided how to react, if I wanted to react and how I let it affect me. Who am I? What do I want out of my future? Is the job you have now or are looking for really your passion? I learned myself with the STAR STORY and the Elevator Pitch. This is really important because the Empowerment training opens people's eyes. If they WANT to change. It's about wanting to change your life not what others want for you.*

### When did you complete your TCR training?

*I completed my training in April 2022.*

### What are you doing now professionally?

*I am now the Front Desk Administrator at TCR!!*

### How has your life changed since TCR?

*My life has changed tremendously. I know who I am. I know that I am LOVEABLE, IMPORTANT, VALUED, EMPOWERED to do anything I put my mind to. I stopped making excuses for myself and knocked down the big pebbles in my life. We tend to always place the blame on everyone else for our mishaps in life or from achieving what we want. While in the program I learned that it was ME stopping ME from achieving any goal I wanted to accomplish. My thought process has done a full 360, my patience with my family has improved tremendously, I have a FT job doing what I love and the mission statement aligns with my life. If you have a job you love it's really not work. It's inspiring others and making a change in the community and that is exactly what I love to give back. I could go on and on about TCR and how it has changed my life but please feel free to let me share with whomever is willing to listen it was a very emotional journey for me but I THANK GOD for TWIN CITIES RISE BECAUSE WITHOUT IT I WOULDN'T HAVE FOUND THE REAL ME.*

### What would you tell someone thinking about coming to TCR?

*Do not put your life on hold looking for other ways to be successful TCR equips you with the tools, mentorships, skills, accountability that you will need in your life, sign up today and I promise with hard work, & dedication, this is for you!!! This program is the answer all you have to do is say YES!!!*

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022



**Eric Black**  
MDI, President and CEO



**Robert Hunter**  
United Healthcare, SVP



**April D. Lucas**  
MnDOT, Director,  
Shared Services



**Sara Knapp**  
U.S. BANK, VP, Director of  
Consumer Deposits and  
Small Business Marketing

# TCR CAN! Launches

On Friday, July 8th, over 50 community members and organizations came together virtually and in person for the inaugural kick off of Twin Cities RISE's Community Advisors Network (TCR CAN!). Several attendees were TCR alumni or long-time community partners, who spoke to the group during the meeting about the impact that TCR has made on their lives or with those that they serve. This group will meet biannually. Their initial charge and goals are to:

## REFER PARTICIPANTS

Share TCR's career training programs with their networks and anyone who might benefit from our Personal Empowerment and career coaching.

## VOLUNTEER

For those willing to share your time, we have several volunteer opportunities.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING, ADVICE & SUPPORT

This group will collaborate on ideas focused on improving, growing, and supporting our outreach, programming, and fundraising.

TCR CAN! Members are united around our common vision and mission to serve those most disconnected, disillusioned, and discouraged in our communities. They are committed to increasing TCR's impact in our state.

If you would like to become a member or get involved, please contact, Alex Merritt, Vice President of Program Operations, [amerritt@twincitiesrise.org](mailto:amerritt@twincitiesrise.org).



# TCR in the COMMUNITY



Recognition for Ling Becker, Director, Ramsey County



Building connections  
at Mount Vernon  
Baptist Church



MN Orchestra with Carlson leaders



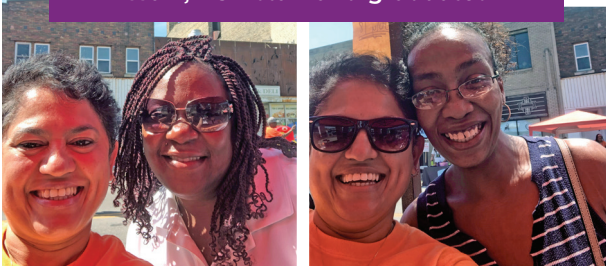
MNDOT Youth Corps Program Graduation



Juneteenth celebration w /Governor  
Walz, TCR staff and graduates



TCR Community Event



Steve Rothschild and TCR staff



1301 Bryant Ave N  
Minneapolis, MN 55411

### Mission:

To transform the lives of those impacted by racial or socio-economic barriers through Personal Empowerment, career training, and meaningful employment.

### Vision:

A community where all individuals, especially people of color, have attained financial independence through employment success.

TWIN CITIES R!SE

R!SE TO THE  
OCCASION

*Annual Gala*

**Sunday, October 9 | 5-9pm**

**The Metropolitan Ballroom**

5418 W Wayzata Blvd, Golden Valley, MN 55416

**HONOREES**

**PRINCE CORBETT**

former TCR participant and 2022 Bush Fellow

**THE HONORABLE TONY N. LEUNG**

TCR Board Member 1995-2020

HONORING the PAST, **CELEBRATING**  
the PRESENT and EMPOWERING the FUTURE

[www.twincitiesrise.org/gala](http://www.twincitiesrise.org/gala)