

TWIN
CITIES **R!SE**

BUILDING CAREERS.
EMPOWERING LIVES.
TRANSFORMING SUCCESS.

RISING UP

AN UPDATE FROM TWIN CITIES R!SE

FALL 2017

TWIN
CITIES
R!SE

EM
POWER



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Dear TCR Friends and Supporters,

We are at an important crossroads as an organization and community. The demographics in the Twin Cities are evolving towards greater racial and ethnic diversity while Minnesota continues to struggle with achievement and quality of life gaps for communities of color. At the same time, significant numbers of Baby Boomers are exiting the workforce via retirement. Twin Cities RISE looks at this as an opportunity to bridge the gap between employers and potential employees looking for meaningful employment.

TCR continues to develop new ways to increase our impact in the lives of people seeking a way out of poverty in the Twin Cities. More and more, we are developing unique partnerships with employers, that are willing to pay us to train future employees specifically for their open positions.



This fall, we launched our 4th cohort of the Metro Transit Technician Program. This award winning program trains individuals with no prior mechanic experience, for a career as a bus mechanic earning over \$25/hour. Through this unique partnership, we are training over 80 individuals for sustainable careers with Metro Transit, as Light Rail Technicians, Light Rail Construction Workers, and Bus Mechanics.

As we expand our partnerships throughout the community, we are excited about the success of our Empowerment Campaign, this capacity building initiative will allow for us to double the number of people that we serve over the next several years. In addition, the campaign will allow us to buy a building and build a community gathering space to meet the demand for our Personal Empowerment program both locally and nationally.

We are excited about the future of the Twin Cities and seeing our vision fulfilled of a community of empowered individuals achieving career success to support their families. Thank you for your continued support, and as always, please feel free to drop me a line, email or better yet, stop in for a visit to see the impact our your support at work!

Sincerely,

Tom Streitz, President and CEO



As you kick off the holiday gift giving season and this special time of year in which we reflect on all tha we have to be thankful for, please don't forget Twin Cities RISE.

With Amazon smile, .05 percent of your shopping order placed through smile.amazon.com will be donated to Twin Cities RISE. To participate, simply log on to smile.amazon.com and select Twin cities RISE as your charitable organization.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you already know. Same products, same prices, same service, You shop and Amazon gives!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: CRAIG BENTDAHL

Craig Bentsdahl long-time Minnesotan, and owner of St. Louis Park's Mill Valley Kitchen, a restaurant designed to help people live healthier lives, has been a generous supporter of Twin Cities RISE for over 15 years. In 2001, Craig's good friend, current TCR board member and former TCR CEO, Mike Bingham, invited Craig to attend a Twin Cities RISE graduation ceremony.

"I was incredibly moved at the graduation ceremony, listening to the graduates share their stories. I have been happy to be a supporter ever since," says Craig.

Last year, Craig was invited to become a TCR Board of Directors member. "I accepted the invitation because I have always been impressed with the mission of Twin Cities RISE, and more importantly, the results. In many ways, TCR is run like a business. There is a tangible, real, and significant return on investment. For every dollar invested into TCR, seven dollars are returned to the community."

Craig displays an active belief in TCR's mission by not only joining the Board, but also, hiring participants of TCR's program, and chairing this year's Rise to the Occasion gala.

Why is meaningful employment so important for you?

"I think it is fundamental to a person's self-esteem to support themselves, care and provide for their family, and create opportunities for their kids. This is what TCR does. It helps people turn their lives around, and the program doesn't just benefit individuals, but families as well, especially the kids."

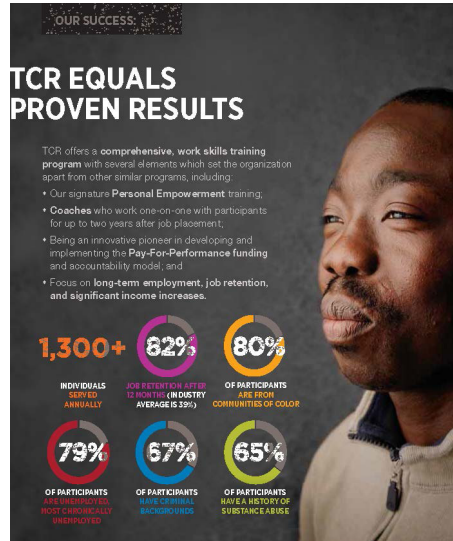


"I grew up in an environment where it was just a given that you would grow up and find meaningful employment. This is not the case for so many of the people that Twin Cities RISE serves. Living a life without employment, your options are terrible, either collecting assistance or getting involved in crime. I don't think anyone feels good being dependent."

What do you say to the person that is thinking about giving to TCR?

"It's an extremely worthwhile organization that is helping people who truly need help. Twin Cities RISE is not a handout, it helps people help themselves."

EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGN



A Capacity Building Initiative

After almost 25 years of transforming lives through meaningful employment, training individuals to get and keep jobs, and providing Personal Empowerment to thousands, Twin Cities RISE has embarked on a campaign to raise the funds needed to further expand our scale and impact. Since its start, over 18 months ago, 40 generous supporters have donated over 4 million dollars to this initiative. These funds will increase TCR's ability to prepare a greater number of empowered individuals for living wage jobs at this critical time when employer demand for skilled workers is rapidly increasing. More specifically, these dollars will:

- Purchase or renovate TCR's

current facility in Minneapolis. By 2020 TCR will be able to double the number of participants.

- Expand the Empowerment Institute. An expanded Institute will allow TCR to greatly increase the number of nonprofits and schools receiving Empowerment training, while also ensuring our practices remain up to date.
- Create an Internship Scholarship Fund for paid internships, which help participants work in a field of their future employment and gain valuable experience while receiving financial support. The scholarship fund will enable TCR to quadruple the number of annual internships offered.

Campaign Chairs Tim Murnane and Julie Baker are leading the efforts to make TCR's expansion visions a reality. While a significant amount of money towards our goal has been raised, there is much more to be done.

If you are interested in giving to the Empowerment Campaign, please contact Brian Herstig, Director of Advancement and Operations at bherstig@twincitiesrise.org or 612-279-5829.

THE RICHARD M.
SCHULZE FAMILY
FOUNDATION
HAS GRACIOUSLY
OFFERED A DOLLAR
FOR DOLLAR MATCH
UP TO \$250,000 TO
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE
TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE EMPOWERMENT
CAMPAIGN.



REMEMBERING KEITH SIMONS



Twin City RISE Empowerment Institute
Director, Keith Simons, passed away on July 26,
2017 after a courageous battle with cancer.

We are a strong and empowered group here at TCR in large part because of Keith's courage, strength, and unshakeable belief in the power of love of self and others. This gift will never leave us.

Leaders of the communities that Keith empowered took a moment to reflect on his impact and legacy.

Mr. Keith Simons embodied the characteristics of a servant leader. He was an inspiring and visionary leader. He was kind, gentle, and very generous with his time and encouraging words. I had the honor to take a Personal Empowerment course taught by Keith, it was a transformative learning experience. Keith was instrumental in creating a meaningful partnership between Twin Cities Rise and Dougherty Family College at St. Thomas University.

Because of Keith's leadership, the founding faculty and staff members of Dougherty Family College will be able to take the Personal Empowerment course, which will have a positive impact on our students' educational experience. Keith empowered individuals, families, communities, and organizations in Minnesota. We can honor Keith's legacy by reminding one another that we are loveable, important, and valuable.

*Buffy Smith, Associate Dean of Academics,
St. Thomas*

Recently I came across a quote from Marvin J. Ashton, "Be the one who nurtures and builds. Be the one who has an understanding and forgiving heart. Be the one who looks for the best in people. Leave people better than you found them." I immediately smiled and thought of Keith. I thought of a humble, strong and compassionate leader who did all of those things. What struck me as most remarkable was thinking of all the people left better by the work Keith did. Instead of feeling sad, I felt enormously empowered, recognizing the incredible opportunity each of us have now to continue doing that very thing. As we continue to leave people better than we find them, to look for the best in others, to be understanding and forgiving, as we continue nurturing and building... we put into practice what we learned from Keith in Personal Empowerment, "You are here to transform your life; so that you may help others transform their lives. In turn, this will transform our communities." I cannot think of a better way to honor his memory, and the work he did with us all. With grace and love, we will endure and grow.

We are better people and a better organization having worked with him.

*Jennifer Walton, Program Director, Ally People
Solutions*

Keith has been a tremendous asset to the work of NAZ and has left an indelible impression on our work. He was just and fair, clear and straightforward and always willing to provide excellent service, while always maintaining his kind demeanor. Even when he became ill, he offered no excuses but quickly worked to pick up where he had left off. When he shared with me what he was facing, he became emotional; not about his condition, but by the fact that he was unable to accomplish all that he wanted in our partnership.

Keith was smart, dedicated, passionate, kind and an inspiration to us all. He will be missed but he lives on in the work that we do on behalf of children and families on the Northside.

*Andre Dukes, Director of Organizational Learning and
Practice, Northside Achievement Zone*

TCR'S NEW APP!

Twin Cities R!SE is leading the way in bridging the gap between technology and workforce training. You can now find an app in the app store custom built for Twin Cities R!SE participants and graduates! This task oriented app allows career coaches and participants to easily stay connected and engaged in participants' personal career development plans.

The app was developed under the direction of Alan Hupp, a supporter and consultant for TCR, and Ralph Pruitt, TCR Career Coach and graduate, by Stanford University computer science students as part of their senior project. **"The goal of the app is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of TCR's coaching model, while helping more people complete their individual success plans and reach their career goals," explains Hupp.**

Stanford students Rui Michael Aguiar, Stephanie Brito, Sahaj Garg, and Anika Raghuvanshi shared that they chose to work with TCR because TCR's mission was particularly inspiring and they personally felt that they could make difference.

"Creating something that was simple and easy to use, all while providing complicated functionality behind the scenes was a difficult task, but an incredibly rewarding experience." shares Aguiar. David Wang, a recent Stanford grad and Twin Cities transplant, has volunteered to maintain the app and further increase its usability.

Hupp, who specializes in the intersection of learning and technology has even greater plans to use technological advances to increase the scale and reach of Twin Cities R!SE's Empowerment Institute.



POWERFUL MUSIC FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Twin Cities R!SE is thrilled to be the chosen VocalPoint beneficiary for 2018. VocalPoint, a 75-voice, project-based, auditioned community choir, conducts a rigorous search each year to identify a target beneficiary and donates 100% of all performance-driven donations to that beneficiary.

To date, VocalPoint has raised over \$140,000 for various non-profit organizations through their intense choral experiences that challenge people through music to build a better world. This year

is guaranteed to be a very special event, as they have partnered with the Grammy Award winning Sounds of Blackness for this concert experience.

TCR participants, supporters, and volunteers are encouraged to not only attend the concerts, but also audition to be a part of the chorale. For auditioning information or to learn more about this organization, please visit www.vocalpointchorus.org.

Please mark your calendars, and come support TCR by attending this special concert on either Saturday, Feb 10 at 4 p.m. or Sunday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.





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